

Asthma Task Force Meeting
October 6, 2015
7:30am - 9:00am



Welcome, Andrea Jensen

- Introductions
- Presentation of plaque and flowers to Rebecca Giles for her years of service, in honor of her last Asthma Task Force Meeting before retirement.

Hospital Cost Report Presentation – Holly Uphold

- It is valuable to understand the economic burden of asthma for many reasons, including convincing stakeholders to implement interventions to reduce the cost, supporting policies, and highlighting areas that may also have a high asthma morbidity.
- Asthma results in direct and indirect costs to society. This report reviews hospitalization charges, which is a direct cost. This report identifies populations by geography (local health district) and payer in Utah with high hospitalization charges.
- Charges for asthma-related hospitalizations have been on the rise in Utah over the last 10 years with many factors contributing to driving this cost up.
- Urban local health departments (LHDs) and those with large populations with poor health outcomes have higher maximum charges.
- Over time, as median charges have increased the average length of stay in days has decreased.
- Emergency department (ED) visit charges increased at a faster rate than hospitalization charges.
- Advanced medical technology is important for managing asthma outcomes and may be one factor related to driving up costs. However, it does not keep asthma patients from utilizing the ED or hospital as a source of care and therefore those with asthma need access to quality preventative care.
- The report will be completed and emailed out through Listserv, as well as posted on the Utah Asthma Program website.

Delaware Student Health Collaboration – Claudia R. Kane from Nemour

- Nemours created a linkage program between school nurses, doctors, and students. Nemours worked with school nurses in Delaware to give school nurses access to their students' EMRs, and better integrate school nurses into the health care team, providing team-based care for students. Please see attached PowerPoint presentation and materials for more details on the program.
- The buy-in for the program by school nurses is EMR access that provides health information/care plans regarding their students. The buy in for physicians is increased coordination with school nurses and that it helps them toward patient centered medical home requirements.
- In Delaware, there is at least one school nurse per school.
- Have conducted a number of evaluations on the program, but haven't measured whether the asthma action plans on file have increased or not. It is part of the patient centered medical home that the asthma action plan gets done and is part of the record.
- If you choose to implement this program, the presenter suggests to start small.

Task Force Collaboration – Open Forum

- Open Airways Facilitator Training: October 21, at 11am at the American Lung Association (ALA) office, located at 3920 South 1100 East Suite 240, Salt Lake City, UT 84124.
- ALA Lungforce Expo planned for 2016 in collaboration with Huntsman Cancer Institute
- A community health project on air quality is being conducted by a nursing student at Western Governors University. The question she will strive to answer is, “How do we improve our air quality?”
- Utah Asthma Program still has many flag kits, if your school is interested in participating, please contact bguerra@utah.gov or kabaxter@utah.gov.
 - Utah County was able to get flag kits for every school in the county.

Work Groups: Inhaler Law Group – Kellie Baxter

- This group discussed current asthma interventions in schools. Updates were provided by group members on a number of programs including Open Airways for Schools, Steps to Independence Asthma Care Plan, and the Air Quality School Flag Program. Contact Kellie Baxter (kabaxter@utah.gov) for additional information.

Work Groups: Health Systems – Brittany Guerra

- This project group met and discussed the CHW core competency list that was presented by Carl Rush at the CHW Symposium in May. This list will be used to develop the Utah CHW core competency training. We reviewed each of the sections and determined whether we would want to include them in our training with an asthma specific focus. We also discussed where these sections would fit in the training. The asthma training rough draft will be updated with these ideas and reviewed at the next meeting. Contact Brittany Guerra (bguerra@utah.gov) if you are interested in participating.

Announcements

Utah Asthma Task Force Meeting
Tuesday, February 2nd
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.