

WICHITA ASTHMA TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
Wed., Jan. 9 – 3:30 p.m.
Via Christi – St. Joseph Campus

Present: Marshall Post (Wesley MC), Don Carden (VCRMC), Sue Willey Via Christi); Karen Heaton (Wichita Clinic); Beth Marolf (ALA/CS), Diane Tinker (ALA/CS), Jan Schwarz (ALA/CS); Laura Elder (ALA/CS)
Via Conference Call: Jeri Yanez (Center for Health & Wellness for Bev White)

Beth Marolf gave an update on the Living with Asthma nights in the Wichita area.

1. On Dec. 5 we conducted a LWA night at Jackson Elementary w/ Adams Elementary. 28 people attended with 5 of those seeking continuing ed. credit as daycare providers.
2. We have an event coming up on Jan. 30, 2008 at the Boy's & Girl's Club on Opportunity. This is in sponsored by UniCare of Wichita and will be marketed to their clients.
3. We are looking at possible dates in Feb., Mar. &/or Apr. for a neutral site with Dr. Rosenberg as the sponsoring physician.

Beth turned the discussion of the Open Airways in Community pilot project over to Laura Elder, Program Director for KS & Western MO for ALA. She explained that a proposal has to be written in the next 2 weeks to present to a possible funder, ONEOK. This proposal needs a target population, clearly defined outcomes and current data to prove a need exists. Existing proposals (submitted to ALA/National & Wichita Foundation) do not have this kind of information.

After much discussion, the project was clarified as follows.

The project will target patients with more than 4 ER visits in a 12-month period. Patients 8 yrs. to adult will be accepted. 60 patients will be accepted – approximately 15 at each site. The diagnosing physician at each site will “encourage” patients to join the study by providing a prescription for attendance at the asthma education classes. Patients will be put into groups of 5-7 people. Each patient will sign a release/contract agreeing to attending all sessions and providing follow-up information. They will also complete an intake questionnaire about their asthma understanding, ER visits (frequency and location) and quality of life. Open Airways will be the asthma education curriculum. The 6-lesson curriculum will be divided into 2 sessions; 1 hour each. Contact will be made with each patient every two months to determine asthma education, ER visits (frequency & location) and quality of life. The participating sites will provide an instructor who will also do the follow-up contacts. The sites will also identify a physician advisor. At the end of the sessions, each patient will receive a peak flow meter and spacer plus \$5. At the end of the pilot project, each participant that provided follow-up information will receive \$15. Via Christi has determined that their minimum cost would be \$60 per patient. ALA will determine their costs. The education classes will begin after Sept. 1, 2008. The time before that will be used for further planning and recruitment.

The potential sites and contact are as follows:

Via Christi Asthma Clinic – Sue Willey, MSM PT
Wesley Medical Center – Debbie Fox, RRT
Center for Health & Wellness – Bev White, CEO
Community Health Ministry; Wamego – Deb Kiker, RN MSN

The Center for Health & Wellness may use the Boy's & Girl's nearby as a location to offer the asthma education to children after school.

The purpose and make-up this committee was discussed. It was decided to change the name to Lung Health Coalition. With this change, we can broaden our focus to: asthma, clean air, COPD & Tobacco. By removing 'Wichita' from the name, we want to include other communities bordering Sedgwick County.

We hope to recruit people to the coalition that are willing to be "champions" in one of those areas. Beth will contact each current member to assess their interest level. Those who want to work in one of those areas, will be classified as 'active member'. Those who only want to be informed of our activities and projects will be classified as 'interested members'.

Eventually we hope to get to the point of possibly meeting quarterly. However, at this point we need to set goals for each of the focus areas (asthma, clean air, COPD & tobacco). To that end, we will continue to meet monthly for the time being.

Next meeting: Wed., Feb. 13 – 3:30 p.m.

Host: Center for Health & Wellness, Bev White