

WICHITA ASTHMA TASK FORCE
Meeting Minutes
Wed., Nov. 14 – 3:30 p.m.
Wesley Medical Center

Present: Kathy Hubka (USD #259), Marshall Post (Wesley MC), Don Carden (VCRMC), Diane Tinker (ALA/CS), Laura Alexander (AstraZeneca), Debbie Fox (Wesley MC), Kenna King (Wichita Specialty Hospital), Stan Brennan (Purifan Clean Air) & Beth Marolf (ALA/CS)
Via Conference Call: Karen Heaton (Wichita Clinic)

Beth Marolf gave an overview on the status of asthma education in Kansas.

1. OAS - Currently in Wichita, no schools have enrolled in OAS. We do expect to have a few schools this year. State-wide, we have enrolled 6 schools and 77 children. While this seems very small, most schools do not implement until winter or spring.
2. OAS in Community - ALA/National has provided an MOU (memorandum of understanding) for us to be part of the pilot project for implementing OAS in Community. They did not provide funding but have given us their blessing and want to include our data in their results. At this time we will need to pursue other funding opportunities locally. ALA is committed to continuing the project but we need to find the funding.

We discussed how to accomplish the goals of the program. Via Christi and Wesley Medical Center have both provided baseline data on ER visits and hospitalizations for patients with asthma (both adult & pediatric). Everyone agreed that the project needs to track that same information to determine if asthma education reduces medical costs.

Don Carden made the following implementation suggestion:

Admit 7 patients via a family practice physical. The criteria would be more than 2 ER admissions in the past 18 months. The curriculum would be covered in two 1-hour sessions. We would measure gross patience change (possibly at 6 mos. & 12 mos.). A quality of life survey would be sent to each participant at the same intervals. Cost would be \$100 per person paid by insurance company. Each patient would be given \$10 at the end of the classes for 100% participation. The remaining \$90 per participant would be used to purchase supplies and provide a stipend for the instructor (an AE-C), ALA/CS and the host site.

Beth gave a report on the Living with Asthma night this fall. The event on Oct. 24 at Center for Health & Wellness was attended by 11 adults and 5 children. The Wamego event on Nov. 8 was attended by 5 people. The event at Via Christi was cancelled due to low enrollment. However, several calls were fielded that day from people interested in attending. In the future, we will assume that people will come that haven't registered.

Future events are scheduled for Dec. 5 at Jackson Elementary with Adams Elementary. We have been in discussion with Bryant Magnet to schedule one their January, 2008. Dr. Rosenberg has expressed interest in hosting one at his asthma clinic.

We spent a great deal of time discussing how to market the events better. Various suggestions were made including using volunteers to make a general announcement at schools, advertising throughout the entire school district via school nurses and using central locations such as Y's or churches with multiple dates for people to register. Kathy Hubka agreed to send the flyer for the event at Jackson Elementary to all USD #259 schools. She also expressed concern about buildings being available to volunteers to make general announcements.

It was generally agreed that using neutral sites where we can set multiple dates is the better option for reaching larger populations. Diane Tinker & Beth will look into available sites for possible use next spring.

[FYI: After the meeting when Kathy distributed the flyer to all USD #259 nurses, the nurse at Jackson Elementary was concerned about opening the event to the entire district and overwhelming her volunteers. After discussions between her & Beth, it was agreed that families of Jackson & Adams Elementary's will be given first priority. If we get too many registrations, we will encourage anyone outside those attendance areas to register for a future event.]

Diane Tinker gave the following update on funding for Wichita project. We have submitted a proposal for OAiC to the Wichita Community Foundation that will be evaluated at the Foundation's February meeting. Other funding sources are being pursued to help fund the OAiC program, as well as other ALACS programs such as Living with Asthma.

Stan Berrman, Purifan, presented his project "Clean Air for Kids" that he is trying to get USD #259 to be a part. He is needing data on asthma prevalence in the schools.

Next meeting: Wed., Jan. 9 – 3:30 p.m.

Host: Via Christi Health Center