

**Louisiana Asthma Management and Prevention (LAMP) Program  
Asthma Surveillance Collaborative (LASC)  
September 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

Matthew Valliere-Chronic Disease Director, Mark Perry-Asthma Program Manager; Dr. Henry Nuss, LSUHSC-Asthma Program Evaluator; Brandi Bourgeois-Louisiana Tobacco Control Program Collette Stewart-Briley-OPH SEET; Melanie Wearing-Office of Public Health Section of Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology (OPHSEET); Regina Williams-OPH Nursing Services; Thomas P. Lotz-American Lung Association; Roxanne Jewell-AE-C, Lynn Kinchen-Louisiana Diabetes Program; Mechaune Butler-Louisiana Office of Public Health; Dr. Leonard Jack-Xavier University Alma C. Stewart-Disparities Consultant; Chrishelle Stipe-American Lung Association; Raegan Jones-Louisiana Department of Education; Kahree Wahid, Louisiana Head Start; Benji Juneau, Beverly Walker and Melissa Dear-University of Louisiana at Monroe; Jennifer Stenhouse and Tara Titon, C-Pex; Ashley Dulle-LSU HSC; Tanya Street and Linda Guedry, RN-Louisiana School Nurses Organization; Belinda Cooper-Region I Asthma Coordinator; Jacki Andrews-Region II Asthma Coordinator; Mayor Judy Daniels and Gloria Davis-Region VII Asthma Coordinators; Mary Barrios-Region VIII Asthma Coordinator; Jennifer Burris and Rene Stansbury -Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center; Yvonne Sterling-LSU; Sharon Buchert-Governors Office on Elderly Affairs, Kerri Capello and Jule Assercq-Earl K. Long Hospital, Nereida Parada-Tulane Medical School, Claudia Washington-OPH Adolescent School Based Health Centers, Peggy Sanders, Doryne Sunda-Meya, and Claire Hayes-Heal Project II

**Action Items**

**LASC members and participants-***respond to LASC 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Meeting Evaluation and Priority Policy Questions by September 31, 2010*

**LASC members and participants-***respond to the LASC Evaluation Questionnaire by October 14, 2010*

**Advocacy and Policy workgroup-***meet by no later than October 22, 2010.*

**Mark Perry-***submit revised policy brief to LASC for comments and then to DHH Legislative and Governmental Relations and DHH Bureau of Media and Communications (BMAC) by no later than November 1, 2010.*

**Mark Perry-***will inquire with D'Andra Bradford and Ritney Castine of the Louisiana Tobacco Control Program regarding secondhand smoke exposure to the elderly.*

**Advocacy and Policy Workgroup-***provide policy that improved the quality of life of seniors living with asthma especially in assisted living environments.*

**Mechaune Butler-***provide the group with a list of policy makers in Louisiana who have submitted legislation and/or any other interest in improving care of persons living with asthma.*

**Mark Perry-***conduct meeting with Blessing Dube, Eman Williams, Mechaune Butler, and Dr. Jane El-Dahr by October 29, 2010.*

**LASC Workgroup Chairs-***conduct Workgroup Meetings by no later than November 10, 2010*

**LASC Core Group-***conduct meeting by no later than November 19, 2010.*

Mark requested approval of meeting minutes from June 22, 2010. The minutes were approved with no uneasiness and will be posted to the LAMP website.

## **Old Business**

### **Program Updates**

Mark Perry provided program updates from LAMP's Year 1 Annual Work Plan. Mark identified areas of need such as Breathe Well Live Well (BWLW) and requested assistance from LASC members to assist in recruitment of BWLW patients and facilitators.

Mark identified areas where the program has been successful in year one such as building capacity, healthcare provider trainings with the assistance of American Lung Association and the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, as well as capacity building in year one at the regional level.

### **Regional Updates**

LAMP Asthma Regional Coordinators (ARC) provided updates on each of the region's efforts to establish new partners through asthma coalitions as well efforts to implement LAMP's Asthma Friendly Schools in their specific region. ARCs did not identify any specific needs or challenges for LASC members to assist in addressing.

## **New Business**

### **Louisiana Asthma Evaluation Plan-Engaging the Stakeholders in the Evaluation Process**

Dr. Henry Nuss, LAMP Program Evaluator presented the LAMP 5-Year Strategic Evaluation Plan that was submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Asthma Control Program. Dr. Nuss' presentation provided meeting participants and LASC members with an overview of the basic understanding of evaluation, overview of the strategic planning document, plan review and updates, the evaluation process and methods, and major program components. Dr. Nuss also provided an overview of the programs activities around partnerships, surveillance, and interventions. Dr. Nuss concluded the presentation by provided participants with LAMP's next steps which is a participatory process of developing the individual plans for the evaluation plan that will be submitted to the CDC in the next few months. Dr. Nuss requested that participants complete the Evaluation Survey which will provide input into the individualized evaluation plans.

The aforementioned presentation can be found on line at [www.asthma.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.asthma.dhh.louisiana.gov)

### **Identifying Challenges with asthma in Louisiana and combating them through Policy Planning and Louisiana Asthma Surveillance Collaborative-Next Steps**

Ashley Dulle, AE-C, RRT provided the group with information around the impact of an asthma educator. Ashley's presentation provided details of the cost benefit and increase in the patient's ability to manage their asthma once the certified asthma educator

assisted by providing education to the patient. The presentation provided statistical results of a study conducted with 177 patients. Results illustrated significant decreases in missed days of school and work, and hospitalizations. Ashley provided the presentation to participants to open up the discussion around policy initiatives of the LASC for 2011 and/or 2012.

The aforementioned presentation can be found on line at [www.asthma.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.asthma.dhh.louisiana.gov)

Melanie Wearing of the Louisiana Office of Public Health presented participants with an update around legislation that has been passed in other states pertaining to improving indoor and outdoor air quality in schools, student's ability to manage asthma in the school setting, and increase knowledge of school staff.

At this time, Mark provided the group with an update from a meeting between himself, Matthew Valliere, and the DHH Legislative and Governmental Relations (LGR) team. In this meeting, LGR pointed out that 2011 legislative session will be a fiscal session with the state facing the worst budget in 30 years. DHH will not support any policy initiatives that will incorporate increasing spending in healthcare such as reimbursements for certified asthma educators or increase in pay for more school nurses. Policy initiatives such as these would have to be lead by an external partner. Mark also reminded the group that as a civil service employees of the state, he along with other civil service workers have to take the stance of Secretary Greenstein and Governor Bobby Jindal on policy initiatives.

Mark stated the importance of acquiring new leadership of the LASC in order to eliminate issues where the LASC would like to pursue similar policy initiatives where civil service workers have to take a step back in the process.

Mark requested that the group revisit the governance structure of the LASC and begin thinking of nominations for a chair for the LASC who does not work under a state agency.

Continuing with the discussion around policy, Mark asked the group to begin thinking of policy priorities that the LAMP Program and the LASC should consider for fiscal years 2011 and 2012. He asked the group to consider policy initiatives that would improve the state's ability to decrease the burden of asthma. He challenge participants to think of problems associated with asthma care, treatment, management, and overall burden and consider policy priority areas which will decrease the impact of these challenges.

***Priorities could consist of students, schools, school faculty education, healthcare providers, school nurses, certified asthma educators, indoor air quality, adult living facilities, decrease in second hand smoke exposure, etc...***

Dr. Leonard Jack asked Mark to consider the landscape of Louisiana and the National economic and legislative situation. Mark said that the state program was not only considering these dynamics but also was considering Healthcare Reform as well upcoming statewide elections and term limits of Louisiana lawmakers.

Dr. Jack asked if that program would be enhanced by the policy initiatives and stated that it was critical that the group be wise in selecting a policy initiative so that subsequent policy initiatives are negatively impacted.

Mark responded that all of that was in consideration hence the reason for the group seeking 2011 and 2012 policy priorities. Dr. Jack also cautioned the group about moving too fast with the attempt to legislate for policy and ask the group to consider who was on board the efforts.

Mark responded that all of those things are being considered but also reminded the group that the program is at a place in the process to move forward with some policy priorities to bring identity to the group regardless of the timeline that is decided upon to pursue the legislation. Mark indicated that he would continue to work with DHH LGR and the Advocacy and Policy workgroup and it is important that all LASC members have a voice by indicating what policy priorities they would like to see in 2011 and/or 2012.

Sharon Buchert added that the group must remember that more than children have issues with asthma and indicated that the group should remember the burden on the elderly in assisted living environments. Mark responded asked Sharon to include those comments in her response to identifying policy priorities.

Mark then reviewed the Louisiana State Plan Advocacy and Policy Goal Area with the group. He pointed out areas such as objectives 3.4 and 3.5 where DHH LGR had concerns with the current fiscal situation of the state and asked the group to review the other areas such as objective 3.6. He also informed the group that under objective 3.6 the group could use the *How Asthma Friendly Is Your School* document to think beyond indoor air quality and consider the other seven areas that are included in the document when thinking of policy priorities.

As it relates to Objectives 3.8 and 3.9, the Louisiana Tobacco Control Program (LTCP) will guide the implementation of these policy efforts and LAMP and the LASC will support their efforts through advocacy. Mark was not sure if LTCP would pursue any smoke free legislation although objective 3.9 is ongoing through their regional partnerships.

Mark added that the next steps with time constraints of today's meeting would be for each participant to provide input into the policy priority areas through the meeting evaluation link that would be provided following the meeting. He asked participants to respond to the meeting evaluation and policy priority question by Friday, September 31, 2010.

Immediately following this process, the Advocacy and Policy workgroup would work to revise the policy brief and reduce it down to one priority area which would either focus on legislation in homes, schools, or healthcare financing. The brief would be submitted to the LASC members for review and comments before dissemination through DHH LGR for final corrections and then to legislators.

**Next Meeting Dates: December 7, 8, or 9**

**Meeting Adjourn at 3:00 PM**