



**Keys to Success –
Building Effective Community
Asthma Control Systems That Last**

Effective Interventions & Best Practices
University of Michigan Asthma Health Outcomes Project
Findings in Brief

Programs With Positive Health Outcomes:

- Work with healthcare providers
- Develop close ties to their communities
- Collaborate with other agencies/institutions, particularly government agencies
- Follow accepted program design steps (e.g., needs assessment, target population analysis, etc.)
- Tailor interventions to individuals' needs, especially environmental trigger sensitivity

www.AlliesAgainstAsthma.net/AHOP

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Communities in Action

Best Practices: “5 Change Concepts”

- Committed Asthma Champions
- Strong Community Ties
- High Performing Collaborations
- Integrated Health Care Strategies
- Tailored Environmental Interventions

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I. CHANGE CONCEPT – COMMITTED ASTHMA CHAMPIONS

Committed champions can affect program outcomes when they promote core goals; track outcomes and disseminate results; commit energy to the change process; and take ownership of steps in the change process to ensure results.

Strategies for Action:

- Lead with energy and focus on results
- Use outcomes data to promote change
- Demonstrate passion and perseverance in pursuit of program goals
- Be open to change and test new methods for improving outcomes

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II. CHANGE CONCEPT – STRONG COMMUNITY TIES

Community engagement should be more than a component of your program; it should be a central focus of all program activity. Highly effective asthma programs have strong relationships with community members and organizations embedded in the community.

Strategies for Action:

- Increase your program’s cultural competence by working closely with your community: hire locally, have service sites in the community, and engage community members in your planning process
- Make your commitment, communications and services easy to understand, welcoming and easy to access
- Support other community programs

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III. CHANGE CONCEPT – HIGH PERFORMING COLLABORATIONS

Collaborations and partnerships can lead to improved program sustainability, increased credibility in the community, more community support, and better and more strategic program planning and implementation. Collaborations with healthcare providers and government agencies can be particularly effective.

Strategies for Action:

- Partner as much as you can, and particularly with established organizations
- Collaborate to implement your program and share the workload
- Share everything possible to leverage your and your partners’ resources to greatest effect
- Be a reliable collaborator for your partners: deliver on commitments

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IV. CHANGE CONCEPT – INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Highly effective community-based asthma programs ensure the consistent delivery of effective clinical care, help providers incorporate best practices, and facilitate communication across the care team.

Strategies for Action:

- Educate clinical care teams and address their needs to help them incorporate best practices into their standards of care
- Promote patient-provider interaction outside of the clinical visit
- Facilitate communication across the care team: school nurses, parents, case managers, home visitors, primary care providers, specialists, and others need to communicate regularly about patient care to achieve the best outcomes

Communities in Action

V. CHANGE CONCEPT – TAILOR ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS TO THE INDIVIDUAL, THE SETTING AND THE COMMUNITY

Customize environmental interventions to meet individual health and education needs; provide counseling and tools to manage environmental triggers in all of the environments where patients spend time.

Strategies for Action:

- Educate clinical care teams and individual patients on environmental asthma triggers
- Assess patients for allergies and triggers and provide *tailored* environmental education and counseling during the clinical visit
- Provide tools and training to manage environmental asthma triggers at home, at school, at work, and in the outdoor environment



EPA Asthma Program

- Aimed at Healthy People 2010 Objective
- Geared to Support a Network of Communities in Action

HP 2010 Objectives Anchor The *Communities in Action* Network

- Reduce emergency department visits
- Reduce hospitalizations for asthma
- Increase symptom-free days
- Increase proportion who receive education
- Increase proportion with written asthma action plans
- Increase proportion who receive assistance assessing and reducing triggers

What Defines a “Community in Action”

- Committed to driving toward the best possible delivery of asthma care
- Aimed at bold stretch goals in parallel with Healthy People 2010 and Network
- Tracking progress toward those goals

National Asthma Guidance

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System for Asthma Control Program Sustainability

National Asthma Control Program (NACP)

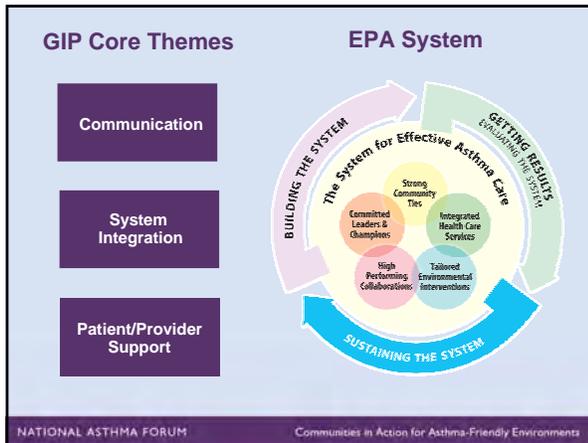
- Guide to Community Preventive Services
- Data and Surveillance
- Key Clinical Activities for Quality Asthma Care
- Framework for Program Evaluation
- Strategies for Addressing Asthma within Coordinated School Health

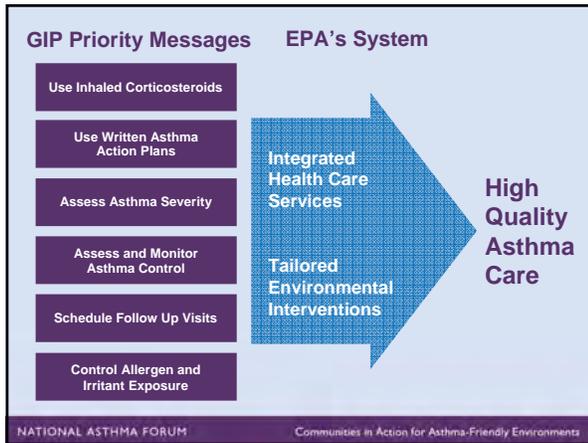
EPA

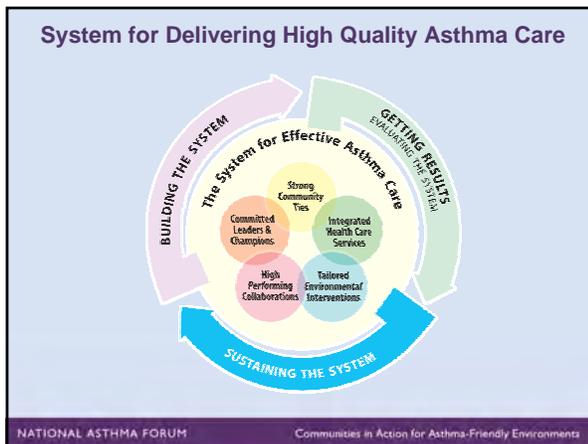
CDC NIH

- Expert Panel Report-3 (EPR-3)
- Guidelines Implementation Panel Report (GIP)
- National Asthma Control Initiative (NACI)
- National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP)

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Question: I'm clear now on the synergy between the EPA System and collective national asthma guidance.

Q4

- 1. Yes, and it will help me take action
- 2. Yes, but I would like more information
- 3. No

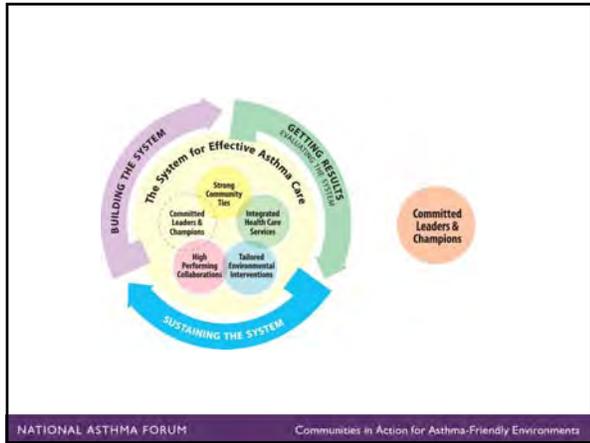
















Expanding the Conversation

- Karen Meyerson, Asthma Network of Western Michigan
- Dr. Stephen Teach, IMPACT DC, Children's National Medical Center

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