Welcome!

Closing the Gap: Addressing Asthma Disparities in Schools

May 1, 2014

Webinar: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT
Question & Answer Session: 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. EDT on AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org
Introductions

Facilitator:
Tracy Enger
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Speakers:
Yolanda Cuevas
District Nursing Services
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Teresa Lampmann
Coordinating Manager
Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey, New Jersey
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Polling Question #1

What is your experience with the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance and Action Kit?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The guidance is the foundation of our IAQ management program</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ve applied some of the info, but want to learn more</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ve heard a little and/or have a kit, but haven’t used it.</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None, but I want to learn more about them</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Polling Question #2

Are you currently involved with a school asthma management program?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No, and my school or district is not thinking about it</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, but my school or district wants to learn more</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I partner with a school asthma program</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, part of my role is to support a school asthma program</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, my main role is to manage a school asthma program</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Purpose of Webinar

• Discover best practices and cutting-edge strategies to reduce asthma disparities.
• Hear how one school district and one asthma coalition used proactive IAQ management to improve asthma outcomes in schools.
• Learn about resources and tools to help put what you learn into action.
• Gain answers to questions about comprehensive school-based asthma management programs from two program leaders.
Facts: Asthma in Schools

• An average of one out of every 10 school-aged children has asthma, making asthma management particularly pertinent for schools.
• 10.5 million school days are missed each year due to asthma.
Facts: Asthma Disparities

• Asthma prevalence among U.S. children:
  – Non-Hispanic black: 16%
  – American Indian and Alaska Native: 10.7%
  – Asian: 6.8%
  – Non-Hispanic white: 8.2%
  – Hispanic: 7.9% (Puerto Rican: 16.5% and Mexican: 7%)

• Higher prevalence among children with a family income below federal poverty level

• Significant racial and ethnic disparities in asthma outcomes (e.g., measures of asthma control, exacerbation of symptoms, quality of life, health care utilization and death)

• Coordinated Federal Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Asthma Disparities
Managing Asthma in the School Environment

- Identify environmental asthma triggers commonly found in school buildings.
  - e.g., mold, roaches, pet dander, dust mites
- Create school health services that support students with asthma.
- Raise awareness of asthma among students and staff.
- Develop a comprehensive plan addressing both the medical management of the disease and the avoidance of environmental triggers.
- Coordinate school, family and community efforts to better manage asthma symptoms.
The Framework for Effective School IAQ Management: Six Key Drivers
Los Angeles Unified School District
Los Angeles, California

Yolanda Cuevas,
District Nursing Services
Los Angeles Unified School District

• Large urban educational system extending over 710 square miles from central Los Angeles.

• 2nd largest school district in the nation, serving over 651,000 K-12 students.

• Partners:
  – **Inside the district:**
    • Administrators, nurses, teachers, pupils services attendance counselors, and other school staff.
    • LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety.
  – **Outside the district:**
    • LAC + USC (University of Southern California) Breathmobile Clinic
    • The American Lung Association
    • Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County
Challenges in Our District

- Students:
  - 73.4% Latino.
  - 10.0% African American.

- Asthma prevalence higher for African American students in LAUSD than rate reported for African American students nationally.

- 80% of our students qualify for federal free or reduced price lunch.

- The school nurses identified asthma as a problem with absenteeism.
  - Excessive absences can impact academic progress and financial restraints on the child’s caregiver. It also impacts school revenue.
Program Objectives

• Improve access to and quality of asthma health care services for children.
• Improve knowledge about asthma and self-management skills among affected children and their families.
• Make communities and schools more asthma friendly.

We aim to reach 300 students and families annually to participate in the Asthma Program.
Our Program

• History:
  – Long-standing IAQ management program within the LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety.
  – 2004: LAUSD’s District Nursing Services launched a Home/school visitation program.
  – 2005: Received Merck Childhood Asthma Network grant to expand program (and still currently funded by MCAN).

• Approach: Use a Coordinated School Health Model to create "asthma friendly" schools and provides the following:
  – Four Asthma Program Nurses.
  – Partner with community clinics, universities and medical centers.
  – Deliver asthma education and self-management classes, as well as disseminate asthma policy.
  – Coordinated case management.
  – Use IAQ Tools for Schools guidance.
  – Participate in Asthma Coalition of LA County.
Approach to Creating the Program

• Engaged students, families, school staff, and the community.

• Gained buy-in of school staff at all levels:
  – Nurses are viewed as a trusted resource.
  – Staff understood how the program would benefit students with asthma.

• Unique features:
  – 25 School based health clinics
  – 14 Wellness centers
Key Drivers in Action: Success Strategies

• **Communicate**: Be Transparent and Inclusive
  – We openly and broadly communicated the problem rather than hiding it so that everyone understood the burden of asthma in our district.

• **Act**: Train Occupants to Address IAQ Risks
  – We provide trainings and created a tailored LAUSD IAQ Tools for Schools reference guide for staff.

• **Assess** Your Environments Continuously
  – Comprehensive walkthroughs.

• **Evaluate** Your Results for Continuous Improvement
  – Continuously track a number of key metrics to assess our program’s impact.
Success Strategies

• Challenge: Keeping families engaged.

• Strategies:
  – Accommodate the parents and see them in the afternoon or at any location that works best for them.
    • We have visited homeless parents in hotels, motels, missions, at parks, laundry mat, etc.
  – Provide a holistic coordinated healthcare approach.
Program Impact

- Provided services to over 2,000 students with asthma and their families making approximately 6,000 home and school visits in the last ten years.

- Results:
  - Significant improvement in daytime asthma symptoms from 8.87 at baseline visit to 3.23 at 12 month follow-up visit.
  - Major improvement in night time symptoms from 6.66 at baseline to 2.07 at 12 follow-up month visit.
  - Great improvement in activity from baseline 7.55 days to 2.49 at 12 month follow-up.

- 512 students (April 2014)
  - Baseline: 13.36 missed school days, costing the district $203,156
  - 12 month: 5.37 missed school days, $81,659 returned to school district
  - (Average Daily Attendance is $29.70/student)
Sustaining Success

• Receiving assistance from the school nursing director to cover 4 school nurses and the supplies.

• Continuing to identify other grants.

• Coming up with creative solutions to reduce costs of programs.

• Exploring reimbursement opportunities for home visits.
The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey (PACNJ)

Asthma Friendly School Award

Teresa Lampmann
PACNJ Coordinating Manager
What Makes a School Asthma Friendly?

A school is more asthma friendly when:

• All staff work together to provide a safe and healthy school environment to reduce asthma triggers throughout the school.

• There are statewide policies in place that help children with asthma breathe easier in school.

www.pacnj.org
Partnerships Make a Difference

- **National**: US EPA-Region 2, HRSA, AANMA,
- **State**: NJDOE, NJDOH, NJDEP, NJPCA, NJSSNA, NJPEOSH, NJADP, NJSRC
- **Local**: Rutgers NJ Medical School, School District Directors of Nursing, School District Medical Doctor
Where to Begin?

Low Socio-economic Areas: The Abbott Districts

NJ DOH Asthma Prevalence – NJ Children age 5-12

- White: 7.8%
- Hispanic: 15.9%
- Black: 17.4%
- Income < $35,000:

Age-Adjusted* Asthma Hospitalization Rate by County of Residence, New Jersey, 2009

*Direct method of age-adjustment using the 2000 U.S. standard population
Data Source – 2009 New Jersey Hospital Discharge File

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
PACNJ Asthma Friendly School Award

- Six Criteria:
  - Annual asthma education for all staff: (NJSA 18A:40-12.9)
  - Airway Management education for school nurses (NJSA 18A:40-12.8)
  - NJDEP No Idling Pledge*
  - Asthma Treatment Plan for students carrying an inhaler (NJSA 18A: 40-12.3)
  - NJPEOSH IAQ Designated Persons Training (NJAC 12:100-13)
  - Nebulizer in every school (NJSA 18A:40-12.7)
The First Challenge

Newark is the largest urban city in NJ with 83 schools, some of them the oldest schools in the nation and over 44,000 students.

2009 Demographics*:
- Population: 276,555
  - White: 26.5%
  - Black: 51.9%
  - Hispanic: 31.8%
- Total Household Income:
  - 49.3% earn less than $35,000
- Essex County: High rate of hospitalization and ED admissions due to asthma

- Proximity, Resources to create and apply insight, Newark City School District, [http://proximityone.com/acs/dpnj/dp1_3411340.htm](http://proximityone.com/acs/dpnj/dp1_3411340.htm) and [dp3_3411340.htm](http://dp3_3411340.htm)
Team Building

- Superintendent, Newark Public Schools
- Supervisor, Office of Health Services
- Executive Director, Facilities Management
- Night Supervisor, Facilities Management
EPA’s IAQ Tools for Schools

150 School Nurses

Core Maintenance Staff
Consequences of Poor IAQ

- Health Problems
- Reduced Learning and Productivity
- Higher Costs to Fix Problems than to Prevent
- Poor Public Relations
- Liability Issues
Impact in Connecticut School

*Chester Elementary Tool for Schools Experience*

School Nurse Reporting
Approx. 335 Students

Large # Asthma Visits, Other Complaints

**TfS Interventions:**
- Carpet Removal
- Repair Roof Leaks
- Ventilation Improvements
- Pest Management Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th># Asthma Related Office Visits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002 (before TfS)</td>
<td>463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002 – 2003 (After TfS)</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>114</td>
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Strategies for Success in Creating Asthma Friendly Schools in Newark

- **Organize** – Partner with the School Health Services, Facilities Personnel, and School Superintendent to organize the approach
- **Assess** – Determine what they already have in place and where additional training was needed for all staff
- **Plan** – Develop a schedule to reach all staff and administrators in the district
- **Act** – Deliver training to facilities staff, school nurses, school administrators and establish key personnel for follow up
- **Evaluate** – Track completion of six steps in each school with a designated point person in each school
- **Communicate** – Communicate Results and Celebrate Success
Newark State and National Awards
Taking it Statewide!

East Orange Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools
Where Are We Now?

PACNJ Asthma Friendly School Award Recipients:
648 Schools reaching 403,527 students and 31,442 staff

For the Plainfield Public Schools the Asthma Champions were the Central Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Resources

- EPA’s Asthma website: http://www.epa.gov/asthma/
- *IAQ Tools for Schools* website: http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/
- EPA’s Managing Asthma in the School Environment publication: http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/managingasthma.html
- EPA’s Asthma Awareness Month Event Planning Kit: http://www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/AAMeventplanningkit
- Resources from AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org:
  - Webinar Archive, including more webinars on asthma in schools: http://www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/webinars
  - Podcast Series, including podcast episodes on managing asthma in schools: http://www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org/podcasts
Polling Question #3

After hearing this presentation, what is the first action you will take?

- I'm not sure at this time
- Act with colleagues to create healthy school environments
- Join AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org
- Access other EPA publications and guidance on asthma
- Access the IAQ Tools for School Action Kit or guidance