

NH Asthma Collaborative
Updates on the State Asthma Plan
May 2016 – September 2016

PARTNERSHIPS, COLLABORATION & SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL - Build a diverse, responsive, & dynamic network of partners to address the burden of asthma in NH & enhance sustainability of effort.

Objective 1: Convene & support the New Hampshire Asthma Collaborative (NHAC).

- Collaborative membership is approximately 150 people and the average attendance at the quarterly meetings has been 20 people.
- Collaborative meetings are scheduled three times a year. The 2017 meetings are tentatively scheduled for **January 19, May 18, and September 21 from 9:00am to 12:00pm.**
- NHACP received funding for the continuation of strategic interventions designed to reduce the burden of asthma throughout New Hampshire for the Comprehensive Asthma Control Through Evidence-based Strategies and Public Health- Health Care Collaboration National Center for Environmental Health Grant through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Objective 2: Increase effective communication, visibility, & outreach of the NHAC & partners.

- The New Hampshire Asthma Control Program (NHACP) is currently in the process of revamping the NH Partners for Healthy School's factsheets. To date, two of the three factsheets have been completed:
 - [NH Healthy Schools: Classroom Cleanout](#)
 - [NH Healthy Schools: Tips for Keeping Your Classroom Clean and Healthy](#)
- The *Improving Asthma Management Series (IAMS)* PowerPoints have been utilized by the North Country Health Consortium. They worked with a respiratory therapist to create a condensed version of the IAMS, complete with a voice overlay. The presentation is now 2 hours in length. Later this fall they will be posting IAMS onto their Moodle platform for health professionals to utilize and obtain CMEs.
- The [AsthmaNowNH.org](#) has received a makeover. Please check it out and send any feedback/suggestions to Jessica Morton at Jessica.Morton@dhhs.nh.gov.#
- Conferences participated in 2016: NH Immunization Conference, Annual School Nurses Conference, and the National Education Association of NH.
- Asthma E-News: 5 Ways to Better Asthma Control.

Objective 3: Promote collaboration, coordination, & integration among public health programs & other partners to address health disparities across health conditions & focus areas.

- The NHACP continues to collaborate with partners to identify, engage, and meet with high-level decision makers to deliver messaging about best practices. Since January, the NHACP has met with Northern NH Area Health Education Coalition, Nashua Health Department, Concord Visiting Nurses Association, and Asthma Regional Council of New England.
- Community Events – In August, the NHACP participated in the Mom's for Clean Air Force Play-In event held at White's Park in Concord.

Objective 4: Generate leadership for policy development & policy initiatives.

- In 2016, Senate Bill 322 passed in the Senate and the House with no opposition. Governor Hassan signed the bill on May 3, 2016. The new law will be in effect for the beginning of the

2016-2017 school year. A workgroup known as Bronchodilator, Spacer, Nebulizer, and Inhaler Implementation (BSNI), has been meeting monthly since April to discuss what resources the school nurses will need in order to have rescue medications and supplies available for students with asthma.

HEALTH OUTCOMES

GOAL: *Improve the management of asthma in NH to reduce the burden of disease.*

Objective 1: Improve health care provider performance in primary, acute & specialty care settings to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

- The American Lung Association will jointly provide the Asthma Educator Institute with Saint Anselm College on Thursday December 1 through Friday December 2, 2016.
 - Registration is now open: <http://www.lung.org/local-content/content-items/our-initiatives/education-and-training/NH-aei-newhampshire.html>
- Lamprey Health Care completed a quality improvement project, which resulted in an increase in the percent of patients having asthma action plans from 1% to 20%. Community Health Access Network (CHAN) developed a report to assist the health center in identifying patients with undiagnosed asthma.
- Coos County Family Health Services and CHAN determined goals and objectives for their quality improvement (QI) project which will work to 1) improve the percent of patients with an asthma action plan, 2) improve the rate of appropriate asthma controller medications, 3) increase and improve asthma self-management education, and 4) communicate asthma action plans with the school nurses of Berlin.
- A meeting is scheduled for September 26 to plan an asthma care QI project with Southern New Hampshire Medical Center.
- Manchester Community Health Center has developed an asthma group visit / education session for patients and parents. The first session is scheduled for October 3.

Objective 2: Improve asthma self-management among individuals with asthma, their families, & communities.

- Camp Spinnaker – a program for kids (ages 8-12) with asthma and in its 4th year was held, August 14 through August 19, 2016 in Center Tuftonboro, NH hosted by Camp Merrowvista. The Camp is operated by Zebra Crossings with oversight by an experienced medical team from Elliot Hospital.
 - 35 campers attended from NH, MA, VT and NY.
 - \$6,425.00 was awarded in camp scholarships.
- Amanda Simpson at Parkland Medical Center developed an Asthma Education Program using this model, the clinical work group reviewed Parkland's program and is now assessing how it can be replicated and shared.
- Coos County Family Health Services has included staff training for asthma self-management education as part of their QI project plan.

Objective 3: Improve the quality of health care resources.

- Inclusion of asthma action plan in SNAP school software. 200+ New Hampshire schools use SNAP software.
- The North Country Health Consortium assisted the Berlin School District in the implementation of the school nurse software and received initial training. The complete school nurse training on the use of the software and input of asthma action plans is scheduled for October 5.

- School Pilot Project (SB322-Relative to the provision and administration of bronchodilators, spacers, and nebulizers in schools): The pilot project for the implementation of this law is being conducted throughout 6 school districts: Concord, Laconia, Rochester, Berlin, Franklin, and SAU 7 which consists of Pittsburg, Stewartstown, and Colebrook. The BSNI workgroup is pulling together resources for school nurses and a number of meetings have been held to discuss how to secure products for the school districts who want to implement this law.

Objective 4: Improve access to comprehensive asthma care

- The clinical workgroup is currently discussing the development of a stakeholder’s workgroup to address the benefits of asthma education.
 - Share Parkland Medical Center’s Model
 - National Standards for Asthma Self-Management Education

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK REDUCTION

GOAL: *Minimize the impact of environmental risk factors to reduce the burden of asthma in NH.*

Objective 1: Increase public awareness & policy initiatives concerning the impact of the environment on human health.

- **Building community resilience to climate change and air pollution.** The NH DHHS continues to fund four (4) regional Public Health Networks (PHNs) to develop climate & health adaptation plans. The Upper Valley PHN is working on heat stress in elders, and the Lakes Region PHN is working on habitat change and Lyme disease. The Greater Monadnock region and City of Nashua are assessing their regional hazards, exposures, and health priorities. Weather and climate factors are known to affect asthma via exposure to hazards such as pollen, heat, and air pollutants. The impact of climate on asthma can be viewed at the National Climate Assessment. <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/sectors/human-health>
- **The EPA Clean Power Plan to reduce air pollution and carbon.** A stay was put on the implementation of this plan by the Supreme Court on February 9, 2016 to assess its legal standing. On September 27, the D.C. Circuit Court is scheduled to hear an appeal from 27 states claiming the Environmental Protection Agency overstepped its bounds with regulations that seek to reduce American power plant carbon emissions by a third within 15 years. The changes under this rule could prevent 140,000 to 150,000 asthma attacks in children over the same period (i.e. by 2030). www.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan/fact-sheet-clean-power-plan
- **The impact of heat on hospital asthma visits.** The Division of Public Health Services staff members Katie Bush and Dennis Holt have completed an analysis of the effect of rising summer heat stress (i.e. heat index) on all-cause hospital visits and cause-specific (i.e. asthma, cardio, pulmonary, etc.). The results indicate that a single hot day (at 95°) can increase ED visits for asthma by 4% on the same day, or by 21% over a week lag period. The study is expected to be published in the next few months.

Objective 2: Healthy Homes

- The Healthy Homes Steering Committee hosted a Legislative Breakfast on May 11th with 75-100 Legislators in attendance. Some exhibitor topics included asthma, lead poisoning prevention, fire prevention, carbon monoxide poisoning prevention, safe sleep, and injury prevention.
- Healthy Homes Code workgroup met on September 6 to start brainstorming suggestions, edits, and changes to the Minimum Housing Standards for rental properties (RSA 48-A:14).

- The 6th Annual Healthy Homes Conference is going to be held on Tuesday, October 25 at the Graponne Center in Concord. There is a breakout session on *Reducing Asthma Risks through Green Cleaning*. For more information please visit: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ecj0wsy1ecbff449&llr=dkuq6geab&showPage=true>

Objective 3: Healthy Schools

This subcommittee last met in January 2016.

- Multiple partners are being pulled in different directions. At this time, the subcommittee does not have a scheduled meeting.
- Attended Conferences – New Hampshire School Nurses Association, National Education Association of New Hampshire Summer Institute
- A subcommittee of this group is currently meeting to implement the emergency rescue inhaler bill.

Objective 4: Work Place

- Due to partners' completing responsibilities, staff changes, and retirements, this subcommittee last met in October 2015. Future goals were discussed which included encouraging providers to review their occupational questions in their EHR and possibly add questions in order to document high-risk occupations for asthma.
- This subcommittee will reconvene in November 2016 to continue this work.

Objective 5: Reduce tobacco use & exposure to secondhand smoke & tobacco particulate matter.

The NH Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TPCP) has:

- A media campaign raising awareness of secondhand smoke exposure to children in homes and in vehicles began in May and will run through March 2017. It includes four different PSAs that were tested among NH residents throughout the state for meaningful and emotional content. The purpose of the campaign is targeting voluntary policies in homes and vehicles rather than driving calls to the NH Tobacco Helpline. One ad that is especially emotional runs after 9PM and is tagged with information for help with quitting smoking, referencing the NH Tobacco Helpline 1-800-Quit-Now and www.QuitNowNH.org
- Submitted Quarter 1 and 2 (January 2016 – June 2016) Helpline data to the National Data Warehouse:
 - 1,528 Total direct calls came into the Helpline (includes wrong number, prank calls and hang-ups before Quit Coaches answer.
 - 945 Unique callers to the Helpline
 - 659 of those callers participated in at least one counseling call and received nicotine replacement therapy patches.
 - 616 patients were referred through their medical provider for tobacco treatment.
 - 484 NH residents enrolled in tobacco treatment services via www.QuitNowNH.org.
- To date assisted over 50 NH Housing Authorities and other Property Management Companies who have multi-unit housing around the state adopt smoke-free policies. It is estimated that 38,048 individuals living in 13,618 units now are able to breathe smoke-free air in their homes.
- Assisted thru a contract with the University System of NH and the Community College System of NH for schools to adopt 100% campus tobacco free policies. As of June 2016, visitors, students, and staff at 15 NH college/universities campuses are in a cleaner environment.
- A contract with the Community Health Institute (CHI) to continue to partner with NH Colleges/Universities in educating, building awareness and working towards adopting a 100% campus tobacco free policy on additional campuses in the future.

- Partnered with the University of North Carolina, Gillings School of Global Public Health on a pilot project surveying vape shops found in NH. Data was collected from 55 out of 80 NH locations, project reports will be released soon.

SURVEILLANCE

GOAL: *Maintain, enhance, & use the current asthma surveillance system to accurately describe geographic and demographic trends in asthma prevalence, hospital encounters, and the burden of asthma in the state.*

- NHACP is pleased to announce the most recent addition to their team, Pascal Kalin, MSc., Epidemiologist. Pascal brings five-years of experience in data analysis starting from designing statistical data collection tools, to database design, data cleaning, descriptive, inferential statistics, and statistical modeling using SAS, SPSS, Excel, MS Project, MS Access, and Visio. Pascal holds a Master's in Public Health with a focus on Epidemiology, and a Master's in Public Health Lab Sciences with a focus on Clinical Research from the University of Massachusetts in Lowell, MA., a Master's in Psychology from Springfield College in Springfield, MA., and a Bachelor of Science with a focus on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH. Pascal will be working as a .5 FTE Asthma and .5 FTE Tobacco Epidemiologist.

EVALUATION

- Asthma evaluation activities over the past three months largely focused on evaluation planning as many new ACP activities are beginning this fall and others are sufficiently underway to begin collecting data.
 - Helped to design the evaluation plan for the new home visiting program for Public Health & Community Services of Nashua, along with their consultant.
 - Worked with Elaine from the North Country Health Consortium on the design of the evaluation for the School Nurse Pilot in Berlin, which will be implemented this fall.
 - Finalized a provider survey with Joan from CHAN that will be implemented throughout the Federally Qualified Health Centers in the coming weeks to assess the use of new asthma electronic medical record screens in their practices.
 - Developed an evaluation plan to assess implementation of SB322 in schools with the BSNI Workgroup.
 - Provided technical support to Astrid Wielens of Zebra Crossings around data collection and evaluation for Camp Spinnaker.