

**ASTHMA COALITION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
GENERAL COALITION MEETING**

**Meeting Notes
April 20, 2009**

ISSUE/TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FINDINGS
Welcome and Introductions	Susan Lacombe called the meeting to order at 1:32pm. There were no corrections to the minutes.	Minutes were approved
LAUSD Presentation- “A piece of the Puzzle: Asthma in LAUSD Schools”	Presentation by Susan Lacombe and Staff from the LAUSD Asthma Program. Highlights from the presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAUSD Nursing Services Asthma Program is mostly grant funded to conduct asthma work throughout the district • Asthma is the number one cause of school absenteeism due to a chronic disease • 63,000 kids with asthma in the district • Tools for schools program: grant with EPA to work with EHS program to address indoor air quality and how poor IAQ affects our health. Teach staff that daily practices impact the indoor air. Some of the topics covered with teachers are: cleaning supplies, mold, animals in the classroom, blocked supply registers, thermostat interference, air filters, and outside sources • Through the Tools for Schools program easy things are fixed, priorities are determined, lines of communication are opened, and there is more awareness of asthma triggers and hazards • In Home Asthma Project is a case management program for high risk students. Asthma nurses coordinate with school nurses and other school staff. Focus on students with uncontrolled asthma, chronically absent, ER visits, recent hospitalization. Help to identify and mitigate asthma triggers in the home. Nurses teach the 2 types of medications and how to use them and how useful a spacer and asthma action plan can be. They also teach about the link between asthma and obesity and link children to the Breathmobile when appropriate. Typically more males are seen, between ages 6-11 and primarily Hispanic. Data shows that they are achieving their goal of controlling asthma. • Asthma educational component is called Open Airways for Schools (for kids in elementary/middle school). Tools such as books and videos are utilized to teach self-management skills to asthmatic children. Staff work with PE teachers in the district to teach them about asthma and what to do in an emergency situation. • Contact information for the LAUSD Asthma Program is (213) 765-2800 	
Strategic Plan Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arcela from the National Latino Research Center presented preliminary results of the online self-assessment survey • Arcela is funded through Community Action to Fight Asthma (CAFA) to provide strategic planning support to the Coalition. The Coalition is a member of CAFA • 33 responses total were received which is a good representation of the coalition • The survey had 14 sections: role in coalition, membership, decision-making process, structure, trust & networking, mission/values, participation, knowledge of asthma, indoor triggers, outdoor air pollution, asthma in schools, coalition sustainability, advocacy & systems 	

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	<p>change, and demographics</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost half (48.4%) of participants disagree that ACLAC has a sufficient, broad-based representation. Participants recommend recruiting strategic entities to join the coalition (i.e. parents, media, private sector.) • Groups not well represented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hospitals (54.8%) ○ Representatives of the media (48.4%) ○ Businesses (41.9%) ○ Parents or caregivers of children with asthma (38.7%) ○ Academic Institutions (38.7%) • Top 6 groups to add to the coalition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parents or family caregivers of children with asthma ○ Health organizations ○ Hospitals ○ Healthy Homes members ○ Academic institutions ○ Local elected officials • 64% said new members do not receive adequate orientation to the coalition • Majority believe Coalition Co-Chairs are most significant in providing leadership for ACLAC (48.1%) and COALITION MEMBERS (25.9%) • 59.3% DON'T adequately understand coalition structure. • 66.7% reported not having received a copy of the coalition bylaws • 63% believe Coalition Co-Chairs set the agenda for ACLAC. 37% believe committee chairs set the agenda for ACLAC. 22.2% don't know who sets the coalition agenda • Coalition members: Agree and Strongly Agree that relationships among coalition members talk openly, feel comfortable, are open to new ideas, and respect each other's points of view • Knowledge of asthma is generally Above Average. However, below average knowledge reported specific to: 1. Asthma National Guidelines 2. Strategic Plan for Asthma in California 3. ACLAC's Asthma Call to Action • Majority of participants have above average knowledge about asthma in general; however, reported lacking expertise advocacy efforts related to indoor air (i.e. Tenant Rights), schools, and outdoor air pollution • Majority of participants believe ACLAC is doing activities that otherwise would not be happening; is a benefit to the community, and is doing work to improve childhood asthma. • Future direction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get more involved in policy process (100%) ○ Increase knowledge and capacity of coalition to get more involved in advocacy and policy process ○ Increase funding and sustainability ○ Address housing needs ○ More focus on schools ○ Continue disseminating information ○ More outreach to African American communities 	

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<p>Nomination and Election of New Steering Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan read the bios for each of the candidates. They are: RETURNING: Katie VanCleave, Nancy Halpern-Ibrahim, Jim Mangia, Kerry Van Frank, Martha Arguello, Robert Vinetz, NEW: Rosemarie Yu, Yolanda Cuevas, Kynna Wright, Joyce Keith Hargrove and Janet Scully • Susan asked for any additional nominations • Carrie Nagy from the Toxics Epidemiology Program and Dr. Roland Holmes were nominations that were added to the slate • Susan requested a vote on the slate as it stands and all in the room voted yes to the proposed Steering Committee slate. There were no objections 	<p>.</p>
<p>Presentation of Appreciation Gifts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Card and flowers were presented to Gina Donatoni by Dr. Vintez on behalf of the Coalition for her tremendous efforts as the ACLAC Coordinator. Gina stepped down as Coordinator when Janet Scully came on board with MCAH in January 2009 • Dr. Vintez also presented a card, gift and flowers to Susan Lacombe from LAUSD for her role as the Co-chair and outstanding dedication to the work of the Coalition. Susan is planning to retire at the end of June 	
<p>Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jannelle Cummins from Evaluation, Management and Training Associate, Inc. (EMT) announced the LA County Service Provider Survey. They are looking for direct service providers who work with kids 0-5 and pregnant women to complete the online survey. Survey results will be used to direct outreach for free family services • Katie Van Cleave from the American Lung Association announced the Breathe Well Live Well upcoming workshop May 8th. The workshop aims to reach adults with asthma • Rosemarie Yu from the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America announced the upcoming camp - "Nomoweasin". The camp is for kids with asthma and is from July 13-17th • Nancy Halpern-Ibrahin from Esperanza Community Housing Corporation announced an article published April 10th - Tidings wrote a piece on housing as a health issue which can be found at www.the-tidings.com • Nancy also mentioned that Esperanza will be hosting a health and human rights event on June 5th. More information can be found at www.lahealthandhumanrightsconference.org or e-mail Nancy at nancy@esperanzachc.org • Ojig Yeretsian from the Tobacco Control Program invited the group to next Coalition for a Tobacco Free LA County meeting June 9, 2009 • Leeor Alpern from AQMD announced an upcoming Air Quality Fair, Sunday June 28th, hosted by AQMD <p style="text-align: center;">MAY IS ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH</p>	<p>Janet will send out an e-mail to Coalition members about how to participate in the survey.</p>