

ASTHMA COALITION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL COALITION MEETING

**Meeting Notes
April 25, 2011**

ISSUE/TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FINDINGS
Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm by Dr. Vinetz • Minutes were reviewed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes approved as written.
Steering Committee Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Nominations • Slate Reading • Member Vote 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting slates passed out to be reviewed by coalition members. Dr. Vinetz asked if anyone had additional nominations for the coalition. There were no additional nominations. • A vote was called on the Steering Committee slate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominations approved. • Steering Committee Slate approved by members.
Presentation and Discussion: “Smoke-Free Housing” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie Van Cleave – LA County Department of Public Health – Tobacco Control Program (Project TRUST) • Marlene Gomez – Smoke-free Air for Everyone • Greg Spiegel—Inner City Law Center • Becky Dennison—LA Community Action Network 	<p>Highlights from the presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations were given on smoke-free housing and unintended consequences. • The presentation began with discussion of current areas that ban smoking and went into details of second-hand smoke and its negative effects. • Highlight of smoke-free housing: When parents smoke, their kids have a higher prevalence of asthma and hospitalizations related to asthma. California smoking prevalence rate is lower than in other parts of the country. Second hand smoke can drift through various parts of an apartment including ventilation vents and walls. HUD release of notice to housing and urban development. Healthy homes manual which provides a guidelines for housing to go smoking-free. Discussion of smoking cessation services. Landlord’s responsibility of providing safe and habitable space. Fair housing laws provide protection with people with disabilities and chronic illness. Lower costs for landlords of smoke-free housing including lower repair costs and insurance discounts. Remedies such as air filters and building modifications do not remove all of the smoke and harmful chemicals. Existence of a smoke-free apartment registry (www.smokefreeapartments.org). Smoking is not a protected right – the focus is not to force people not to smoke, but to regulate where they can smoke and protecting vulnerable populations. 73-84% of tenants would like to live in smoke-free apartments or sections of apartments. 82% feel that there is need for laws to limit smoking in apartments. Overview of tenant protections in various Los Angeles counties. • Highlights of Unintended consequences: Discussion of smoke-free housing as a legal intervention and the concern from the perspective of low income tenants. The potential for displacing lower income tenants is a primary concern. Rent stabilization keeps rent low as long as tenant lives there, but rent can be raised once the tenants moves out. Landlords use any excuse to evict low SES tenants. How can you prove that you did not smoke? Policy could not be applied to current tenants due to rent stabilization ordinance. Smoke-free policy must balance exposed tenants and public 	

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	<p>health of that tenant that has a member of the family that smokes. There is also an issue of addiction among minority and low SES community which are targeted more from tobacco companies and have less health care access. There should be a provision of health services to help with quitting and cover medical/medicine costs. Nuisance is an easier way to characterize a lot of behaviors that are not illegal and would create a dilemma in figuring out who is protected and who is not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question highlights: Is there data regarding evictions due to ordinances? No, data of massive evictions and the ordinances are relatively new. How many people would respond to eviction by taking on health care services to quit smoking? Not enough data to show, but may still be enough reason to be evicted despite quitting smoking. Community-based solutions versus ordinances. Another solution is to advocate production of more affordable housing and advocating that percentages of them be smoke-free so that tenants also have an option to move to a smoke-free environment 	
<p>Workgroup Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma Friendly Schools • Outdoor Air • Indoor Environments • Clinical Care 	<p><u>Asthma Friendly Schools Workgroup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update. Next meeting data TBD. <p><u>Outdoor Air Workgroup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update. <p><u>Indoor Environments Workgroup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: promote indoor air quality and asthma friendly housing systems and policies within a framework that upholds rights and protects against unintended consequences. • Increasing community involvement through workgroups. Working on an asthma resource guide. • Will pole for the next meeting date in order to include more members. <p><u>Clinical Workgroup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workgroup continues to recruit physicians. 	
<p>Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May is Asthma Awareness Month • ACLAC Logo • Financial Report • From the floor 	<p>Asthma Awareness Month: This year’s event is to create an Asthma Coalition facebook page to raise awareness about asthma and the Coalition.</p> <p>ACLAC Logo: New logo was shared. Motion to adopt the new ACLAC logo.</p> <p>Financial Report: \$5,288 remaining funds, \$1,073 spent on grant writing, \$392 ACLAC lunch, \$165 gathered from passing the hat</p> <p>AQMD grant: Review committee is not meeting until June.</p> <p>Coalition policy efforts: 1) letter of support to Senator Yee for Bill 136 for smoking cessation services, 2) letter to Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein to strengthen the clean era, CDC healthy homes grant</p> <p>Asthma intervention in public and assisted multi-family housing: Inquired whether anyone is applying for this grant. None of the attendees plan to apply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACLAC logo passed by the coalition