

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

**Meeting Notes  
July 20, 2009**

ISSUE/TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FINDINGS
<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p>	<p>The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm.</p> <p>There was one minor correction to the minutes regarding an event date change. AQMD's Air Quality Fair was changed from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 12<sup>th</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions were conducted. The new Steering Committee was introduced along with the Coalition Co-Chairs, Dr. Robert Vinetz and Nancy Halpern-Ibrahim.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Presentation: "Air Pollution and Asthma in Southern California" by Cyrus Rangan, MD Director of the DPH Toxics Epidemiology Program</b></p>	<p>Highlights from the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Los Angeles County is a highly industrialized region which greatly impacts the air quality.</li> <li>• Risk factors for developing asthma include, genetic characteristics, environmental exposures, and other contributing factors.</li> <li>• Components of air pollution that influence asthma: ozone, particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO) and sulfur/nitrogen oxides</li> <li>• The USC Children's Study evaluated asthma impacts from several indicators of traffic exposure and compared them with outside measurements of NO<sub>2</sub> for the same study subjects within California.</li> <li>• Conclusions from the USC Children's Health Study:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The closer the child lived to a freeway, the higher the childhood asthma prevalence.</li> <li>○ Children who lived 400 meters from the freeway had an 89% higher risk of asthma than children living 1,600 meters away from the freeway.</li> <li>○ The proximity to freeway was linked with increased wheezing and current asthma medication use, as well as, with increased measured NO<sub>2</sub> levels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Physiological effects of ozone: respiratory irritant, reduces lung capacity, increases ER visits and hospital admissions, increases school absenteeism, and may cause asthma to develop</li> <li>• There are some conflicting conclusions from the data that exists on the epidemiological effects of ozone. (Studies that Dr. Rangan referenced were from Atlanta, Cincinnati, the CA Central Valley and Los Angeles).</li> <li>• In an effort to bring awareness to the public about air quality, US EPA, NPS, and state and local air agencies partnered to collect and transfer real-time and forecasting air quality information.</li> <li>• Air quality forecasting utilizes the Air Quality Index (AQI), a national reporting program that links air quality levels to cautionary health messages.</li> <li>• Particulate matter that comes primarily from vehicle exhaust can deeply impact lung tissue, exacerbating lung disease, including asthma.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can the Asthma Coalition have an impact on reducing the burden of asthma?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community education about individual management plans, link people to resources, work on asthma from a policy perspective, strengthen our involvement with the school districts, among many other strategies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>Community Action to Fight Asthma (CAFA)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate Lorenzen, MNA is the Statewide Coordinator for CAFA. She joined us from Northern California to provide an overview of CAFA and the benefits of membership.</li> <li>• CAFA is a network of asthma coalitions in California shaping local, regional, and state policies to reduce the environmental triggers of asthma for school-aged children.</li> <li>• The Asthma Coalition became a member of CAFA in March of this year. There are several benefits of being a CAFA Member:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Technical Assistance</b> – in the areas of coalition development, structure, strategic planning, program implementation, tool identification and development, advocacy support, and general problem solving.</li> <li>○ <b>Opportunities for Peer Learning</b> – through regional and state meetings, conference calls, and a listserv. Through this process the coalition can learn about promising practices, successful strategies, and useful tools to aid in the implementation of our work.</li> <li>○ <b>Opportunities to contribute to a state policy agenda</b> – the coalition influences CAFA's state policy agenda.</li> <li>○ <b>Access to a clearinghouse of asthma information</b> – with essential updates about events, new research, new tools, model programs, and policy opportunity.</li> <li>○ <b>Opportunity to showcase our coalition across the state</b> – with CAFA's visibility, there are numerous opportunities to highlight the successes and strategies of our coalition</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Currently there are no membership dues.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>The Asthma Coalition Website</b>  <a href="http://www.asthmacoalitionla.org">www.asthmacoalitionla.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janet and Carrie gave a brief overview of the website content. They distributed a website preview document containing the content of the site thus far. Members were asked to take look at what is included on the site and provide feedback and additional information/resources.</li> <li>• The website is hosted by the LA County Department of Public Health - Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Programs. The coalition has to use the County template for website design. We hope once the coalition establishes a funding source that the site will no longer be supported by the County.</li> </ul>	<p>Members are to contact Janet via email <a href="mailto:jscully@ph.lacounty.gov">jscully@ph.lacounty.gov</a> with any feedback on the website.</p>

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<p><b>LAC Lead Poisoning Prevention Program – Home Visit Evaluation of Possible Asthma Triggers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole Henderson and Kimberly Best from CLPPP presented information about a Public Health Nursing Visual Survey Tool they would like to obtain feedback from the coalition on. Among other housing concerns, the project addresses possible asthma triggers in the home.</li> <li>• The purpose of the survey tool is to aid the PHN in effectively assessing housing quality with morbidity (eg. lead poisoning and asthma) and indentifying three specific housing related health concerns for lead-burdened children and their families.</li> <li>• After sharing the Survey Tool with the coalition, Nicole and Kimberly asked coalition members to provide input on the form. They will modify the form based on the useful feedback received.</li> </ul>	<p>Members are to contact Nicole with any additional comments on the survey form at <a href="mailto:nhenderson@ph.lacounty.gov">nhenderson@ph.lacounty.gov</a></p>
<p><b>Announcements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helen from the Health Homes Collaborative announced a report that was recently released by the Coalition for Economic Survival (CES) titled “<i>Healthy Household Environmental Action for Tenants</i>”. It can be found on the CES website: <a href="http://www.cesinaction.org/CESinAction/CESHealthyHomesReportandRecommendations/tabid/265/Default.aspx">http://www.cesinaction.org/CESinAction/CESHealthyHomesReportandRecommendations/tabid/265/Default.aspx</a></li> <li>• Leeor announced that AQMD is hosting an Air Quality Conference at USC on July 24, 2009.</li> <li>• Katie let us know about the upcoming EPA Hearing on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am-9pm at the Sheraton in Downtown LA – The hearing topic is Revised Standards for Nitrogen Dioxide.</li> </ul>	

Recorded by Janet Scully