

ASTHMA COALITION OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL COALITION MEETING

Meeting Notes
July 23, 2012

ISSUE/TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FINDINGS
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Vinetz called the meeting to order at 1:20pm. • Minutes were approved as written. 	
<p>Asthma Awareness Month Event Summary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janet provided a summary of the “Home is Where the Asthma is”. On May 9, 2012, the Asthma Coalition along with its partners hosted "Home is Where the Asthma is". The hugely successful Asthma Awareness Month event took place at an apartment complex in South Los Angeles where residents are suffering from housing related health conditions. The event featured tenant-led asthma trigger tours of the units, education and advocacy tables for community residents and a press conference. There were over 60 participants and 5 press members present, including Spanish language channels. Furthermore, one Spanish language channel conducted a live in-studio interview about housing related health conditions with one of our housing advocates following the event. • As participants arrived they had an opportunity to explore the asthma education materials and resources available from organizations such as, the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Breathmobile, LA Care, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation, Esperanza Community Housing, and Inner City Law. Next, the press conference began with remarks from Jim Mangia, President and CEO of St. John's Well Child and Family Center, followed by Dr. Jan King, Department of Public Health (DPH), Area Health Officer for South and West Los Angeles. Dr. King spoke about how health is impacted by poor housing conditions and the role the DPH plays to improve home environments. The press conference concluded with powerful testimonials from two tenants who currently reside in the building. Participants then had the opportunity to tour the apartments to see firsthand the visible mold, full roach traps, rotting window sills, among other hazards and asthma triggers in the homes. • The event was captured by a professional videographer who will develop a short 1-2 minute highlight video. The finished product will be shared via social media to further promote awareness of asthma triggers related to neglected housing conditions. 	
<p>Presentation: “The Affordable Care Act and Improved Medicare for All (aka: Single Payer): How does asthma fit into the picture?”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molly Tavella from Physicians for a National Health Program – California presented an overview of the Affordable Care Act and Improved Medicare for All. <p>Presentation Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hx of health care - Baylor Hospital offered the first health care plan for the teachers to pay 50 cents each month in exchange for Baylor picking up the tab on hospital visits – called Blue Cross. 	<p>Janet will post slides on Coalition website. www.asthmacoalition.org</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1940-1960's the percentage of the population with health care went from 9% to 70%. There were tax breaks for employers who provided health care to their employees. • In the US, there are 50 million people without ANY health insurance. In 2012 so far, over 2,300 people have died in California due to lack of insurance. 62% of bankruptcies are medically related. 45,000 preventable deaths each year. • Compared to other nations, the US spends almost double per capital on health care. • What did 2010 HC reform do well – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advances the concept of comprehensive healthcare for all 2. Attempts to eliminate some harmful practices of private insurance such as preexisting condition denials (2014), annual/lifetime caps (2014), rescissions (2014) 3. Attempt to make insurance easier to get and more transparent 4. More coverage for drugs under Medicare (2010 – 2020) 5. Expands Medicaid to 133% Poverty (138%) 2014 – <i>If states accept</i> 6. Increases funding for comparative effectiveness research (2010) 7. Funds and builds new community clinics (2011) • What did reform not do so well – introduces a complex system, middle class must buy insurance or get fined, lack of choice remains, underinsurance and insecurity remains. • Where do we need to continue working on health care reform? – 23 million still uninsured in 2019. Insurance corporations will be handed billions in public money through subsidies. US taxpayers will continue to subsidize pharmaceutical company profits. There are no proven cost controls. • Improved Medicare for all (Single Payer System)– everyone is covered automatically by one public payer, there is single comprehensive plan, freedom to choose provider/hospital, coverage is attached to YOU (not your spouse, job, etc.), it is a social public good. Undocumented will not be covered. • How Improved Medicare for all saves money – Streamlines administration and billing process through a single-payer, there is bulk purchasing of pharmaceuticals and equipment, there is an increased emphasis on primary and preventive care. • Advantages of Single Payer System (for Patients) - Universal coverage from birth, comprehensive benefits, no cost barriers, free choice of provider and hospital, portable coverage, improved continuity, improved health, as demonstrated by other countries. • Advantages of Single Payer System (for Primary Care Providers) - Restoration of clinical autonomy, improved continuity with patients, simplified billing and decreased overhead, change in patient mix, improved patient access to therapy, increased reimbursement, easier referral to specialists, participation in budgeting, planning, setting fees. • Asthma related benefits of Single Payer – Schools have money when absences go down – 	

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	<p>LAUSD would save \$300M per year, builds community empowerment, physicians will be reimbursed for asthma education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CA Universal Health Care Act – SB 810 has passed twice in CA and will be re-introduced in 2013. Where to find more information: www.kff.org, www.pnhpcalifornia.org and www.cahpsa.org Molly Tavella – (408)892-1255 or molly@pnhpcalifornia.org 	
<p>General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congratulations to LA Care on their recent award from EPA! CDC PHPS Fellow Recruitment Asthma Related Policy Update Prop 29 Outcome Financial Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA Care was awarded the 2012 National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma management by the US EPA. This prestigious award recognizes innovative approaches to improving asthma patient health and quality of life. LA Care is the only health plan among four asthma management programs nationwide to be honored. On behalf of the Asthma Coalition, the Department of Public Health applied for a CDC PHPS Fellow. The application process was extremely competitive and lengthy. Janet was recently notified that we were successfully matched with a Fellow. What that means is the Asthma Coalition will have full-time support for 2 years! Monica Morello will begin her field assignment with us at the beginning of October. When she arrives, please help me to welcome her! <u>Bills CAFA is supporting:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB 535 (OAQ) – Alive in Assembly Appropriations Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a community benefits fund out of revenues generated out of AB 32. This fund would go to communities most impacted by climate change to help mitigate those impacted. AB 441 (land use) – Alive in Senate Appropriations Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires that the CA Transportation Commission include health and health equity factors in regional transportation plans. SB 1220 (housing) – Died on Senate Floor (needed 2/3 vote) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would have created a permanent source of affordable housing funds. <u>Bills CAFA is monitoring:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB 1922 (OAQ) – Alive in Senate Environmental Quality Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets requirements for all vehicles in a fleet to be inspected each year. SB 1339 (OAQ) – Alive on the Assembly Floor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would authorize the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to jointly adopt a commute benefit ordinance. AB 1448 (schools) – Died in Assembly Appropriations Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would have prohibited the Legislature from reducing funding for home-to-school transportation below the amount established in the Budget Act of 2011. <u>New:</u> 	

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	<p>SB 901 (OAQ) – Alive in Assembly Appropriations Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates the High Polluter Repair Program to remove high polluting vehicles from the roads on areas in the state in most need of air quality improvements. • California Tobacco Tax supporters are calling for a ballot recount. Unofficial results show the \$1-per pack cigarette tax initiative to fund cancer research lost in June by fewer than 30,000 votes out of more that 5 million cast statewide. • Financial Report – The Coalition has approximately \$3,000 remaining in our ALA account. 	
Workgroup Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 4 workgroups had an opportunity to regroup for about 20 minutes to discuss work currently being done by partner agencies and schedule their next workgroup meeting. 	
Announcements from the Floor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAFA Annual Meeting in Sacramento, August 15th • Webinar July 26th, 11am-12pm– “Asthma Research: What’s on the Horizon” • California Asthma Summit – December 5-6, 2012 in San Francisco • The American Lung Association’s Fight for Air Walk is October 21st. The Coalition will be forming a team. Be on the lookout for an e-mail invitation to join us! • Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) is hosting a “Healthcare Voices for Clean Air” event at Children’s Hospital LA on Tuesday, July 31st from 10-11:45am. Contact Ariana Milman at (213)689-9170 or mailman@psr-la.org 	

Recorded by Janet Scully