

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

**Meeting Notes
October 25, 2010**

ISSUE/TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/FINDINGS
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting was called to order at 1:30pm. Review of the minutes. One minor typo was corrected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes approved as corrected
<p>Presentation and Panel Discussion: “Efforts to Improve Healthy Homes – Overview, Enforcement and Tenant Rights”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen Campbell – Healthy Homes Collab. Maurice Pantoja – DPH Environmental Health/Lead Program Carlos Aguilar – Coalition for Economic Survival 	<p>Highlights from the presentations:</p> <p><u>Overview of Healthy Homes: Helen Campbell – Healthy Homes Collaborative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 7 principles of a “healthy home”: dry, clean, pest free, safe, contaminant free, ventilated, and maintained. Indoor air quality and healthy homes: people spend 90% of their time indoors, children breathe twice as much air as adults. The Healthy Homes Collaborative is committed to eliminating environmental health threats in homes and communities through advocacy partnerships, capacity building, strategic organizing and training of building workers. They look at data of number of children, lead poisoned children, old buildings and target their outreach in those most at risk neighborhoods. A new Statewide Healthy Homes Coalition was recently established. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 3 subcommittees: indicators, code enforcement and green/affordable housing Policy goals include: mold safe work practices, statewide SCEP and RRP alignment <p><u>Enforcement – Housing Inspections: Maurice Pantoja – LAC DPH Environmental Health Program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maurice first gave an overview of the Environmental Health Program and what they do. It is a Program within the Public Health Department. Comprised of 5 Bureaus, 26 Programs and 700 employees that primarily conduct inspections. The District Surveillance and Enforcement Bureau (DSE) conducts unannounced food and housing inspections. Most housing inspections are conducted once per year, unless it is deemed a high risk site (twice per year). Hazards addressed in an inspection include: insects/pests, rodents, maintenance, sanitation, visible mold, sewage, uncontrolled moisture, inadequate ventilation and peeling paint/lead-safe work practices A report is issued to owner for all violations. There is a re-inspection after 21 days to ensure compliance Inspection limitations: Not all units inspected, lengthy process to gain compliance, requires tenant cooperation When a complaint comes in (5 units or more-investigation within 3 working days, 1-4 Units-investigate if complaint is an emergency) Healthy Homes Program within Environmental Health – 5,000 high risk sites selected for HH inspections This program addresses issues that the regular housing inspections do not such as: asthma/allergies, environmental tobacco smoke, unintentional injuries, child safety, radon, and safe food handling. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals for HH inspections: encourage owners to reduce/eliminate non-enforceable hazards, increase owner/tenant awareness of potential hazards, encourage tenants to discontinue hazardous behaviors. • Tools for HH Inspectors: Property owner recommendation report, tenant condition checklist, “Stepping Stones to a Healthy Home” handout • Limitations: only making recommendations, there is limited follow-up, there are no incentives, not enough Spanish speaking inspectors, operating without outside funding • CONTACT INFORMATION: Maurice Pantoja – (323) 869-7015 mpantoja@ph.lacounty.gov, EH Hotline (888)700-9995, Lead Program 1-800-LA-4-LEAD <p><u>Tenant Rights: Carlos Aguilar – Coalition for Economic Survival (CES)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lack of decent, safe, and affordable housing in LA City resulting in critically low vacancy • 60% of LA City households live in rental housing - When 30-40 % of income goes to rent that is considered a rent burden. In 2007, 29% of renters were rent burdened and 29% severely rent burdened. • Severe overcrowding decreased from 24% in 2000 to 9% in 2007. • Non-rent control renters rate their apartments as being in better condition than rent control renters. • CES conducts tenant organizing to empower and mobilize renters. Building-wide problems can be addressed by tenants organizing together and asserting their rights through collective action via outreach, education, empowerment and mobilization. • Landlords don’t want angry tenants, especially organized tenants. • CES has a Lead Hazard Remediation Program that provides FREE lead grant funds to landlords for the complete removal of lead based paint hazards so that tenants have a safe, healthy and habitable home. • CES works with the HH program on integrated pest management efforts, including green cleaning. • CONTACT INFORMATION: Carlos Aguilar – (213) 252-4411 www.cesinaction.org <p><u>DISCUSSION/COMMENTS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does CES get around the fear of tenants? When tenants become angry they are more willing to organize. They are empowered when they are not alone. We help tenants contact elected officials and let the landlord know that tenants are serious. • How do we get families connected to CES? caguilar@cesinaction.org • Where does the Healthy Homes Collaborative get their data? The Healthy Homes Collaborative has a partnership with DPH Lead Program Data Analysts that provide the data and analysis. • How does CES decide what cases to take on? They hold workshops for tenants. Tenants can also meet with an attorney free of charge. Through the workshops and advise from attorneys CES decides the best direction for tenant organizing. • Smoke free housing issues....will they go out for complaints? Recommend tenant put a filtration system (Carlos) Will not get involved in a situation where a tenant may get evicted. Is there a way to collaborate to address the smoking issue. • Are DPH inspectors able to remediate on a building level and not just a unit level? Yes-that is the way the HH program is supposed to work. • What is the solution to prevent the “run around”? Use 311 (LA City) 211 for LA County. Members report that they have had success with Info Line. Healthy Home Collaborative is a great resource to direct tenants to the correct resource, especially when the problem is complex. 	

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<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"> • Goal: Improve asthma management by developing policies in schools to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase use of Asthma Action Plans (AAP) ○ Improve Indoor Air Quality ○ Allow students to self-carry asthma medication when appropriate ○ Strengthen collaboration between Schools and Medical Providers • Specific Objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ increase the number of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) students with a written AAP on file at their school by 20% ○ ACLAC Asthma Friendly School workgroup will develop an AAP informational presentation for approximately 590 school nurses ○ conduct exercise and asthma training for PE teachers and coaches in another LA County school district ○ develop and implement a model compressive asthma management policy consistent with National Institute of Health guidelines in Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) • PUSD has already improved the use of AAPs by more than 20% • Community Health Workers are partnering with LAUSD to increase the use of AAPs at home visits and they are reminding providers. • Health promotion consultant from Anthem Blue Cross will be disseminating the AAPs to providers to increase AAPs • Dr. Johnny Huang, ACLAC member, is promoting the use of AAPs at Venice Family Clinic <p><u>Outdoor Air Workgroup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Asthma Coalition of LA County (ACLAC) has signed a letter of support Against Prop 23, an initiative that serves to suspend the air pollution regulations set under legislative bill AB32 until California’s economy improves. • West Hollywood is drafting an ordinance concerning smokefree outdoor. Ordinances currently exist in neighboring communities of LA City and Beverly Hills. • Burbank will vote on smokefree outdoor patio areas in apartments and condominiums, which passed in neighboring areas of South Pasadena and Glendale. For more information, visit http://www.center4tobaccopolicy.org • AQMD has started a program to address environmental justice issues concerning outdoor air pollution. Get involved in the Working Group to help draft a Clean Communities Plan to reduce toxic emissions from multiple sources in the community of Boyle Heights, selected by the AQMD for this pilot program. For more information, visit http://www.aqmd.gov/aqmp/ccp.html • In order for ACLAC to be prepared to support legislation and policies, key outdoor environment facts and statistics need to be assembled as key “talking points” for rapid drafting of letters of support. All data should include appropriate references for the source of the fact or statistic. • Instead of arranging a next workgroup meeting at this time, the Outdoor Workgroup’s agenda will keep moving forward via email communication beginning with a draft of the key “talking points.” 	

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	<p><u>Indoor Environments Workgroup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indoor Environment Workgroup met early September to solidify its goals and objectives. • The Goals include: 1) at least 3 local municipalities will adopt new policies promoting asthma-safe housing that minimize indoor environmental risk factors contributing to asthma; 2) support or promote at least one indoor related policy via letters of support, public testimony or meetings with elected officials. • The workgroup agreed that within the human rights framework the group will be diligent to prevent unintended consequences resulting in violation of human rights. <p><u>Clinical Workgroup:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clinical Workgroup has had a difficult time gathering participants. Most of the members are physicians who have a challenging time attending meetings during the day. Janet is helping Dr. Vinetz to get a conference call scheduled for a lunchtime meeting. 	
<p>Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQMD Smartphone Application – Air quality information at your fingertips • Strategic Plan • Our search for funding • Updated website • ACLAC Logo • From the floor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQMD postponed their announcement about the Smartphone Application until next year. • The Strategic Plan is nearly finalized. Once the workgroups have refined their action plans the final document will be posted on the ACLAC website. • ACLAC continues to seek funding opportunities. We plan to reapply for the AQMD funding. The new FRP will be released in November. • As promised, Janet has added meeting minutes and presentations to the ACLAC website. They can be found by clicking on “<i>Minutes, Agendas and Presentations</i>” under the <i>Asthma Coalition Meeting Documents</i> heading. • ACLAC has been working with a graphic design student to develop a coalition logo. The concept has been designed, but we continue to refine the details. The draft logo will be shared with coalition members early next year. • Katie Van Cleave is looking for someone to conduct an Asthma 101 in Spanish for parents on the morning of November 16th. Please contact Katie if you are able to help. • Raymond Kohl announced that AIDS Alliance is asking for support in the effort to maintain funding for school based HIV prevention (DASH). Please contact Suzanne Miller at the National Coalition of STD Directors at smiler@ncsddc.org for more information and to get involved. 	