

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

**Meeting Notes
April 26, 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 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were approved as written
<p>Presentation: “Changing the Paradigm-Treating Tobacco Dependence as a Chronic Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Harold Farber, Associate Professor, Pediatric Pulmonologist Section, Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children’s Hospital 	<p><u>Here are some of the highlights from Dr. Farber’s presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of what was presented was from the ACCP Tobacco Dependence Treatment Toolkit. Tobacco dependence is not just a bad habit, it is a severe addiction. Tobacco dependence is a COMMON pediatric disease. 20% of high school students report smoking in the past 30 days. If you can treat asthma, you can treat tobacco dependence. Treating Tobacco Dependence: The AARMR Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask about smoking and smoke exposure Assess the disease Recommend treatment Monitor for effectiveness and side effects Revise the treatment plan Treatment of tobacco dependence should be a stepwise approach and is based on severity. The most effective tobacco dependence treatments involve use of medications. The goal is to control nicotine withdrawal and allow the patient to feel normal. Various relievers include: nicotine gum, lozenges, oral inhaler, and nasal spray (e-cigarettes are not recommended!) Several Controllers are available to treat tobacco dependence as well: the Nicotine Patch, Bupropion SR, and Varenicline to name a few. Other components of the ACCP Toolkit are: discussion of coding and billing, sample insurance appeal letter, assessment tools, management tools, charting and reporting tools, slide sets discussing toolkit principles, advocacy principles for smoke free communities, and policy recommendations for smoke free kids. To control a child’s asthma, treatment of the caregivers tobacco dependence is essential. Pediatricians should be knowledgeable about treatment of tobacco dependence and should consider offering effective treatment to tobacco dependent parents. (or at least be able to refer to appropriate treatment resources). Link to the American College of Chest Physicians Tobacco Dependence Treatment Toolkit: http://tobaccodependence.chestnet.org (available soon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The slides are accessible on the Asthma Coalition website www.asthmacoalitionla.org

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Strategic Plan Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arcela, our strategic planning consultant, is working on the first draft of the Strategic Plan. The document will be available for review and comment by the July 26th Coalition Meeting. 	
Steering Committee Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Vinetz announced the nominations received for the Steering Committee. The nominees then introduced themselves. The role and responsibilities of the Steering Committee members were described. Any additional nominations were requested and a vote was initiated. The New Steering Committee will be in place for one year. Members are: Anne Farrel-Sheffer, Carrie Nagy, Janet Scully, Katie Van Cleave, Kerry Van Frank, Kynna Wright, Marilyn Li, Marlene Gomez, Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, Robert Vinetz and Yolanda Cuevas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The membership voted unanimously in favor of the Steering Committee slate.
Presentation: Asthma Hospitalization and ED Visit Data for LA County by SPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Doug Melnick Los Angeles County Department of Public Health SPAs 1 and 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Melnick shared asthma ED visits and hospitalization data from California Breathing, CDPH. The data presented was broken down by Service Planning Area (SPA). South LA (SPA 6) and the Antelope Valley (SPA 1) have the highest rates of ED visits with 79.4 and 58.4 respectively (rate per 10,000). SPA 6 and SPA 4 also have the highest rates of ED visits among children age 0-4 years and 5-17 years. According to 2006-2008 data, SPA 6 had the highest rate of asthma hospitalizations with 22.1. The next highest rates are 12.7 and 12.6 (SPA 7 and SPA 1 respectively). Asthma hospitalizations among children ages 0-17 in 2006-2008 were most prevalent in SPA 1 and SPA 6 (18 and 17.3 respectively). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The slides are accessible on the Asthma Coalition website www.asthmacoalitionla.org
Re-Cap of the Asthma Coalition Fundraiser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The American Lung Association is now the fiscal agent for the Asthma Coalition. The funds we raised were deposited into an account that the ALA will manage on our behalf. The Inaugural Asthma Coalition Wine Tasting fundraiser held on April 24th at the San Antonio Winery was a huge success. We raised close to \$9,000! Four groups generously agreed to sponsor the event: QueensCare Family Clinics, Philips Respironics, Anthem Blue Cross and Mr. Mace Seigel (a concerned citizen). Approximately 60 attendees enjoyed the various vendors, silent auction, edible treats, a raffle, live music and a short presentation by Cindy Harding (Director of DPH MCAH Programs) and a personal heartfelt story from a child with asthma and his mother. 	
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAY IS ASTHMA AWARENESS MONTH!! Spread the word to raise awareness about the burden of asthma, improve asthma outcomes and increase healthy environments. Katie announced that The American Lung Association in California, American Cancer Society and American Heart Association have joined forces to place the California Cancer Research Act on the November 2012 ballot. If passed, the California Cancer Research Act would <i>increase tobacco taxes by \$1.00 a pack</i> and invest the revenues in research, tobacco prevention and enforcement programs. Upcoming Workgroup Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor Environments Workgroup – 5/7/10 1-3pm 	

Recorded by Janet Scully