

Lung Health Committee
Minutes
Feb 24, 2011
Via Conference Call

Present: Sue Willey (VCRMC), Dick Anderson (community rep), Kathy Hubka (USD #259),
Beth Marolf (ALA/PGR)

Program Reports:

COPD Support Group:

Sue reported that the COPD support group scheduled for Feb. 9 was cancelled due to weather. There were 16 people registered. The next meeting will be May 11. Hopefully the same panel will be available.

Dick raised the issue of location. Someone had commented to him that they would like to attend but that having to get all the way from the parking garage to the meeting location (even if it is close to the door) is too far. Dick has checked into using his church at 5002 E. Douglas which is about 2 miles east of downtown. The church is willing to waive the usage fee and kitchen staff is available to provide snacks. They also have technology available for presentations. We will have the May meeting at the church and see how it goes.

TATU:

Beth reported that 2 staff will be trained as adult facilitators on Mar. 12 at South High School. So far only South & West have expressed interest in the program. Other schools have indicated that there are other issues which they are focusing on (ex. social media).

Asthma Management Project – USD #259 (CAMP)

Beth reported that while we started out with 7 elementary schools, due to nurses retiring, job changes & responsibility changes, we are down to 4 schools participating – Bryant, College Hill, Peterson & Pleasant Valley. The goals of the project are:

- Decrease school absenteeism
- Increase the use of asthma action plans at school
- Increases the knowledge of school staff
- Reduce the number of self-reported ED visits & hospitalizations

We will work with student nurses at area nursing programs to train them as Open Airways for Schools (asthma education) facilitators. They will then go into the schools, probably during the lunch hour, to offer the classes. School staff will be educated using the Asthma 101 curriculum. While it is too long to use the entire program, we will use the parts that provide important information for school staff. Nurses will be given a more in-depth asthma education at a Wichita School Nurse Organization meeting this spring. Peterson Elementary has volunteered to be a test site this spring for a Living with Asthma night for parent education. Beth will work with the nurse to set it up. The nurses will look at combining the district's medication permission form

for asthmatics and the asthma action plan into one form. If a child has medication at school, they will need the 'new' medication form/asthma action plan completed by the doctor.

Freedom from Smoking (FFS):

A FFS facilitator training was offered in Wichita on Feb. 16 & 17 with 3 participants. Normally we require 6 participants to hold a training, but these people had been registered for the training in Nov., 2010 that was cancelled due to low registration. The decision was made to hold the training to accommodate these individuals. In the future, we will continue to require 6 participants for trainings.

We have received a \$5,000 grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield Community Foundation to help implement FFS clinics across the state. The monies will be used to purchase workbooks and nicotine replacement therapies as necessary.

Grant Update:

Boeing:

At the end of December we were contacted by Boeing Employee Community Fund of Richardson, TX. That our project in Wichita didn't qualify for funding because it wasn't in Texas. Somehow our proposal application was mis-routed. That has been corrected and we are still waiting on a decision on this grant proposal. At this time we don't have any idea when a decision will be made.

McIlwaine Foundation:

In early January we submitted a grant to the McIlwaine Foundation for \$25,000 to implement Better Breather's Clubs across Kansas. This money would be used to recruit and train BBC facilitators, provide materials for each member and provide spacers for each member.

National Reports:

State of Tobacco Control (SOTC) Report:

This annual report was released Jan. 20 and is attached. Kansas scored poorly:

- **Tobacco Prevention & Control Spending – F**
This grades the amount of money the state budgets for tobacco control- \$1.8 million. The question is will the FY2010 state budget even keep that funding.
- **Smoke Free Air – A**
We got an excellent grade because of the clean indoor air law enacted July 1, 2010.
- **Cigarette Tax – D**
Kansas tax is \$.79 a pack much lower than the national average but not as low as a few other states (Missouri is the lowest).
- **Cessation – F**
This grades the state on what cessation coverage is offers to state employees and Medicaid patients. CDC recommends Kansas spent \$10.53 per person on the Quitline while Kansas spends \$.22

Advocacy:

Legislative Update:

There have been rumblings in the legislature to try to weaken or overturn the clean indoor air law enacted last July. The two of interest are:

- HB 2340 would grant an exemption to the current clean indoor air law to bars that sell lottery tickets. The idea is that since the state owned casino is exempt, other establishments where 'gambling' takes place should also be exempt.
- HB 2324 which prohibits the sale of electronic cigarettes to minors. While this seems good on the surface there is concern that it will be used as a vehicle to weaken the current clean indoor air law.

If/when there is a hearing scheduled on either of these bills, we will need to mobilize people in a grassroots effort to testify how the clean indoor air law is a good thing. We need restaurant and bar owners and employees who support the law as well as patrons who now patronize bars and restaurants because of the new law.

Poll Results Press Conference:

A coalition of many partners (heart, cancer, lung, Tobacco Free Kansas, Clean Air Kansas, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Wichita Medical Research & Ed. Foundation & Oral Health Kansas) commissioned a poll to determine the level of support by Kansas voters for the current clean indoor air law. It was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies (a renowned pollster for the National Republican Party) on Jan. 11-12, 2011 and surveyed 500 likely Kansas voters. Results, released on Feb. 9 are:

- 77% of Kansas support the current law
- 59% are less likely to vote for a candidate who wants to repeal the law
- 84% view exposure to secondhand smoke as a health hazard
- 54% of smokers like the state's smokefree law

Interestingly, the results crossed party lines and age demographics. It is also not an ideological issue. Even Tea Party members supported the law. The researchers reported that any poll numbers that indicate 30% or higher strongly support or 30% or less strongly oppose are VERY significant numbers. In this case, 62% strongly support while only 14% strongly oppose. The numbers are on our side. This information has been provided to all legislators.

Sedgwick County Health Department:

Mary Hope, RT at Via-Christi, and Diane Tinker, ALA, were featured on a video by the Sedgwick County Health Department that will be available on the county website. Sue reported some of the information included:

- The adult smoking rate in Kansas is 18%
- The high school smoking in Kansas is 17%
- The middle school smoking rate in Kansas is 4%
- There are 6,193 deaths in Kansas attributable to smoking:
 - 1,202 – lung cancer
 - 1,148 – respiratory disease
 - 3,833 – heart disease

Future meetings:

Next meeting will be via conference call **Thurs., May 19 at 3:30 p.m.**
ALA will provide call-in information with the agenda for that meeting.

Update to information provided on the conference call:

1. Nurses asthma training with WSNO will be Thurs., Apr. 14.
2. There is a 3rd legislative bill we are watching – HB 2039. This bill would remove the casino exemption. Again, while this would be a good thing, there is fear that it would become a vehicle to weaken the current law.
3. Kansans are encouraged to contact their local legislator to thank them if they voted for the law. If they voted against the law, we want to express our support for the law. Legislators need to be reminded that they work for us!