Implementing a Community Asthma Education Program
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Asthma Facts- Nationally

• Asthma impacts:
  – 22.2 million people,
  – 7.1 million children under 18 years; of which 4.1 million suffered from an asthma attack or episode in 2011,
• Leading indicator in missed work and school absences,
• Third leading cause of hospitalizations in the US,
• 3,388 deaths in the US in 2009

(American Lung Association, 2011)
Approximately 297,000 (12%) children ages 0-17 years have asthma in Georgia,

Approximately 600,000 (9%) adults in Georgia have asthma,

2001 to 2007 there were 113 asthma deaths per year,

Blacks were 2.7 times more likely than Whites to die from asthma,

Asthma is more common among adult women (11%) than adult men (6%),

More than 54,000 ER visits for asthma occurred in Georgia in 2007 totaling $63 million
Asthma Facts- Georgia

- Children ages 0 to 4 had the highest rate for asthma-related ER visit 1,428 per 100,000,

- Thirty six percent (36%) of children with asthma were allowed to have asthma medicine at school. (Georgia code OCGA 20-2-774),

- Fifty eight percent (58%) of children with asthma have never been given an asthma action plan,

- Epi Pen Legislation: (Georgia Code 20-2-776 (2012),

- Asthma prevalence was higher among children whose family annual household income was less than $15,000 (13.9%) than among children from families making $50,000 or more per year (8.9%).

(Georgia Dept. of Community Health, 2013)
Southeast Coastal Georgia Issues

- Asthma Plan implementation issues
  - Over 40% of medical providers and school nurses in the Southeast Coastal School Districts are unaware of the state plan and its implications

- Port Expansion-Savannah

- Water/Mold impacts

- Volatile organic compounds (VOC’s)
Georgia Association of School Nurses (GASN) Survey

- 233 school nurses completed the 2012 asthma task force survey (May 2012) from 55 of the 157 counties (35% of counties),

- 159 RNs (68%), 62 LPNs (27%), 12 unlicensed personnel (5%), and 5 cluster nurses (2%), from public school (87%), private/alt. (4%)

- 1,690 total students, with an average of approximately 144 students with asthma (8.5% of students) and approximately 26 students (18% of students with asthma) that have an asthma action/care plan on file, (Total population served/total with asthma)

- 115 teachers and staff with an approximate average of 6 teachers/staff with asthma,

(GASN, May 2012)
Asthma Education Completed by Nursing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing Asthma Triggers Training</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACE Asthma Educator Training</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asthma 101 Facilitator Training</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Airways for Schools Facilitator Training</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not completed any recommended trainings</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8%</td>
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</tbody>
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Program Objectives

- Develop an educational program which builds on a consolidation of state and federal program resources,
- Focus on developing a partnership between school nurses, parents, medical providers in the coastal Georgia region, and inter-professional faculty of higher education,
- Identify and utilize available resources for education,
- Educate and empower program recipients with current knowledge of asthma and how to educate children, parents, teachers in:
  - preventing lung disease and
  - promoting lung health
Program Objectives

• Increase community awareness of:
  – public policies,
  – outreach programs,
  – resources,
  – coalition support,
  – educational support from inter-professional team approach,

• Make available asthma action plans
Institutional Collaboration

Inter-professional research project with Armstrong Atlantic State University Departments of Nursing and Respiratory Therapy
Community Collaborative Partners

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/ Georgia Asthma Strategic Planning group
- Georgia Association of School Nurses (GASN)
- Southeast Coastal Georgia School Nurses
- Georgia Asthma Coalition
- Mothers and Others for Clean Air
- American Lung Association –Georgia Chapter
- Georgia Department of Public Health/ Georgia Asthma Control Plan (GACP)
- Walmart Community Foundation
Georgia Asthma Control Plan

• The core components include:
  – Establishing management and support systems for asthma friendly schools,
  – Providing appropriate school health and mental health services for students with asthma,
  – Providing asthma education and awareness programs for students and school staff,
  – Providing a safe and healthy school environment to reduce asthma triggers,
  – Increasing the use of asthma action plans,
  – Providing safe, enjoyable physical education and activity opportunities for students with asthma,
  – Coordinating school, family and community efforts to better manage asthma symptoms and reduce asthma-related school absences.

  – *The goal of this plan initiative is to reduce asthma related hospitalizations, emergency department visits and days missed from school*
National Goals

• **By 2017**, improve the integration of care management between health care providers and schools/child care settings to increase the number of school health programs/health coordinators (Head Start)/owner (private-licensed child care centers) that report receiving asthma action plans from primary care providers by 10% from the 2012 baseline.

• **Key Strategies:**
  - Create a standard asthma action plan.

• **Key partners:**
  - GA Allergy and Asthma Physicians Associations
  - Georgia Academy of Family Physicians
  - School nurses
  - Georgia Regional Extension Center
  - GA Chapter AAP
  - DCH—Maternal and Child Health

• Get the endorsements from each group via their websites and conferences; make action plan easily accessible to physicians.

• [www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce](http://www.epa.gov/childrenstaskforce)
President’s Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety  Risks to Children

•  *Four Strategies to Get the Right Asthma Care with the Right Support to the Right Children:*

  – Reduce barriers to the implementation of guidelines-based asthma management,
  – Enhance capacity to deliver integrated, comprehensive asthma care to children in communities with racial and ethnic asthma disparities,
  – Improve capacity to identify the children most impacted by asthma disparities,
  – Accelerate efforts to identify and test interventions that may prevent the onset of asthma among ethnic and racial minority children
Program Development

• Methodology

  – Develop an educational program that proposes to build on the strengths of the federal and state partnerships to implement a multi-faceted approach to community asthma education,

  – Focus this endeavor with school nurses, parents, and medical providers in Southeast Coastal Georgia Schools and regions to include: Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn and Liberty Counties.
Program Implementation

- Develop educational opportunities for nursing and medical providers

- American Lung Association - *Asthma 101 Curriculum*

- National Center for Healthy Homes - *7 Principles of Healthy Homes Curriculum*

- Savannah Asthma conferences with St. Joseph/Candler and Memorial Health Systems and Armstrong University - *On the Cutting Edge*
Program Goals

• Educate 50-75 school nurses in the Southeast Coastal Georgia school districts in the five county areas by August 2013,

• Each nurse will provide follow-up education to five school personnel and ten parents in their district,

• Missed school days will decrease by 10% for children in the coastal region for the school year 2013,

• Families with an asthma action plan will increase by 10% in each district by August 2013,

• The September seminar, Asthma on the Cutting Edge, will be attended by 50-75 professionals,

• Grand rounds medical education will be provided in three rural Southeast Coastal Georgia hospitals by June 2013.
Program Outcomes

- 65 school nurses in two Southeast Coastal Georgia school districts completed Asthma 101/Healthy Homes training
- Two community seminars, *Asthma on the Cutting Edge*:
  - 2012 attended by 64 health care professionals
  - 2013 100 attendees
- Implementation of IHI Simulation collaborative
Institute for Healthcare Improvement Armstrong Chapter

- Promotes excellence in the next generation of health care providers and to provide students with opportunities to develop their understanding of the magnitude of safe, quality patient care
  - Member of the Savannah IHI Chapter
  - Armstrong
  - Mercer University
  - South University
  - Memorial University Medical Center

- Asthma Simulation Scenario
  - High Fidelity Human Patient Simulation-Asthma client
  - Incorporation of Asthma 101 curriculum
Limitations/Barriers

- Limited time in work day to implement education interventions due to higher level of acuity of clientele,

- Lack of administrative support in schools,

- Staffing cuts impacting educational interventions,

- Time, budget constraints, and knowledge deficits of local health departments
Future Collaborative Plans

• Continue school nurse asthma education in coastal Southeast Georgia
• Inter-professional asthma conferences
• IHI/Armstrong simulations
Resources

- Georgia Association of School Nurses (GASN): committed to providing quality health care services to school children. (Task Force: Teleconf. Second Tuesdays 2:30)
- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America: www.aafa.org
- Georgia Department of Public Health Contact: Francesca Lopez-Program Manager | fmlopez@dhr.state.ga.us | Georgia Asthma Control Program http://dph.georgia.gov/asthma-surveillance
- Mothers and Others for Clean Air: www.mocleanair.org
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments www.envirn.org
- Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta: http://www.choa.org
- Environmental Protection Agency: Free DVD’s/color sheets http://www.epa.gov/asthma/
- Sesame Street- A is For Asthma: http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/asthma
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Questions or Comments?

Thank you