

Oregon Asthma Network
 Air Quality & Asthma Workgroup
 July 18, 2002 2:00-4:00
 Oregon Public Health– Room 705C

Attending: Lindarose Allaway, Oregon State University Extension Services; Michelle Butler, Department of Environmental Quality; Kevin Downing, Department of Environmental Quality; Kirsten Jensen, American Lung Association of Oregon; Gerry Odisio, DHS Tobacco Prevention and Education Program; Bruce Podobnik, Lewis and Clark College; Margaret McConnell, American Lung Association of Oregon; Rachel Shapiro, Oregon Asthma Program; Angela Wilson, EPA/Region X; Justin Waltz, Oregon Asthma Program.

Item	Conclusions	Action Items	Person Responsible	Date
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justin Waltz welcomed the group and introductions were made. • Participants new to the group included: Rachel Shapiro from the OAP who will be working with clinicians to improve asthma care; Michelle Butter from DEQ who works in the permitting section and will be replacing Elizabeth Vowels as DEQ's representative. Angela Wilson from EPA Region X's Portland office. Angela works on environmental justice issues. Margaret McConnell from ALAO. Margaret is new coordinator for the Master Home Environmentalist program. 			

<p>Discussion of Draft School Bus Idling Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Downing gave a summary of his efforts to work with the Oregon Department of Education to issue an advisory regarding the idling of school buses near school grounds and other places where children congregate. Diesel particulate has been identified as an exacerbator of asthma for some people. • Group members gave many suggestions for the content of the draft advisory as well for the implementation of district policies that might result from this advisory. Among them: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highlight the idea that children who have exacerbated asthma often don't sleep well and therefore may not come to school ready to learn. 2. School districts may need to show how school bus idling can affect the health of bus drivers (and how they can benefit from following an anti-idling policy). 3. Local Parent-Teacher Associations, bus driver unions, and teacher unions can be recruited to help implement these policies. 4. Bus companies that have implemented similar policies (SEATRANS?) should be contacted to figure out the barriers and enablers to doing so. 5. Although the advisory should be kept to one page, it may be useful to have a link to 	<p>Kevin Downing appreciated the feedback and may ask the group for additional feedback on future drafts of the policy.</p>		
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	<p>DEQ's website so that readers can find additional information on diesel particulate and asthma.</p> <p>6. School districts can exhibit a proactive stance on school environmental health by implanting a school bus idling policy and then mailing home notification of the change to parents.</p>			
Discussion of Resource Bank Questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justin presented some results of a pilot test of the questionnaire that was conducted at the Network meeting on June 20. The group recommended this at the May 23rd meeting. The response rate was over 30% and some questions will be revised for clarity and consistency. 	Questionnaire will be revised.	Justin	9-20-02
Revisit strategic plan for future <i>AQ and Asthma Workgroup</i> activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group members gave suggestions for future activities that the AQ and Asthma Workgroup might become involved with. Those suggestions included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Assisting the Tools for Schools program Working on an issue related to mold Helping advocacy groups make better use of the Portland Air Toxics Review Modeling Tool. Ensure that major transportation projects take health impacts into consideration 	Suggestions should be incorporated into the group's Goal and Objectives document.	Justin	9-20-02

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What groups should be surveyed for the Resource Bank Needs Assessment?	Workgroup members had the following suggestions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pulmonary Rehabilitation Association 2. Respiratory Therapy Association 3. Providence Health Systems 4. Multnomah County Medical Association 5. Multnomah County Health Department 6. Occupation health nurses association 7. Oregon School Nurses Association 	Justin will take the group's suggestion back to the Oregon Asthma Program	Justin	9-20-02
Other Agenda Items	The group will continue work with the asthma triggers portion of the educational material needs assessment for the Resource Bank.			

Pending Issues		Person Responsible
	Next meeting of the Air Quality and Asthma Workgroup will be announced. If you have an issue or item that you would like to put on the agenda, please do not hesitate to contact Justin.	Justin Waltz