

Summary notes for Fall Focus 2003

The Oregon Asthma Program made visits to five different communities in Oregon including, Bend, Eugene, Medford, Gold Beach and La Grande. Most of these meetings provided CME and CE opportunities for physicians and nurses. However, all health care providers and community members were invited and encouraged to participate.

The meeting began with representatives from the Oregon Asthma Program updating community members on the most recent population based data on asthma in Oregon. Kirsten shared the preliminary results from the Oregon Survey of Adult Asthma, and David reported on recent Oregon Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data on the effects of tobacco smoke on asthma. David also introduced the new Asthma Tobacco Integration Project, a project that addresses active smoking and secondhand smoke exposure among people with asthma. A large portion of the time was dedicated to listening to the different communities express their concerns around asthma and tobacco. Finally, Justin led the group through a focus group discussion on Asthma Action Plans and their use in different health and community settings.

Staff (or representatives) from the American Lung Association of Oregon (ALAO), County health departments, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) were all invited to share information from their agencies. The ALAO updated community members on statewide programs that provide asthma education and awareness in the school environment. They shared information on several programs such as *Open Airways for Schools*, Fresh Air for Little Noses, and Exercise and Asthma. The vaccination coordinator for each of the County health departments provided information on their flu vaccination programs, and explained the importance of people with asthma receiving flu shots on an annual basis. The Asthma Friendly Schools coordinator with the ODE updated community members on opportunities for their schools to get involved in creating asthma friendly schools. All communities expressed great interest in this project. Lastly, representatives from DEQ provided air quality updates for each of the regions and focused on participants' regional concerns focusing on wild fires, field burning, diesel engines, and woodstoves. This was beneficial in maintaining a focused awareness for people living in different parts of Oregon.

Each community provided and hosted a physician speaker during lunch. The presentation was similar for every community and covered the issue of spirometry in the primary care setting for the use of asthma management. While the presentation was geared toward physicians and nurses by providing CME and CE credit, all participants enjoyed and benefited from the presentation.

Included in this set of notes, are the focus group results from the discussion on Asthma Action Plans, and the summary of notes from the discussion on the Asthma Tobacco Integration Project.