

# Montana Asthma Advisory Group

## Virtual Conference Call

### Thursday, May 14, 2020, 9am-12pm

#### Welcome and Introductions

#### Attendees:

Curtis Noonan, Carolyn Linden, Mary Millin, Marcy Ballman, BJ Biskupiak, Blevins Mary, Bryan Tavary, Collin Laing, Jennifer Van Syckle, Jessie Fernandes, Rory Johnson, Rayna Joshu, Julia Meyer, Julie Anderson, Julie Nack, Kaitlyn Frenk, PA-C, Jason Kleinschmidt, Ann Lanes, LeAnn Harrison, Leigh Ann Holmes, MEG TRACI, Lexi Mcgrail, Kris Minard, Stacy Campbell, Tina Randall, Vernessa Perry

\*7 additional attendees called in via phone and were not recorded by name. We're sorry if we missed you in these minutes. We appreciate your participation.

## Asthma Program Response to COVID19

#### Messaging

MACP is aligning responses with information from the DPHHS Public Health and Safety Division (PHSD) and the Governor's Coronavirus Task Force. The program is following the lead of the CDC while utilizing resources from the CDC and other national partners like the ALA, AAFA, AAAAI, and others. The MACP is attentive to the developing studies on coronavirus morbidity and mortality, especially in patients with asthma and other chronic diseases.

The MACP website contains tips on how to protect yourself during the coronavirus pandemic and links to partner websites with more information on asthma and coronavirus. Media requests have been coordinated with the PHSD public information officer. As state epidemiologist continue to assess Montana coronavirus data, information will be shared widely.

Marcy Ballman shared the *Virtual Asthma Management During COVID19* guidance document (included as attachment w/meeting minutes).

#### Social Media

The MACP launched a digital media campaign coinciding with World Asthma Day on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The campaign includes targeted ads and social media posts intended to drive traffic to the MACP website and increase participation in asthma programs like the Montana Asthma Home Visiting Program (MAP). Content designed for early May was adapted to tie into COVID19. Originally planned messaging will resume in late May and run through the end of August. The program will evaluate the reach and effectiveness of the campaign and use the information to guide future communication efforts.

Other organizations from the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Bureau have been very active during the COVID19 pandemic. Many of these messages apply to people with asthma. Examples were shown during the meeting and can be found in the meeting slides.



## Other resources

### *COVID-NET: A Weekly Summary of U.S. COVID19 Hospitalization Data*

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network (COVID-NET) conducts population-based surveillance for laboratory-confirmed COVID-19-associated hospitalizations in children (persons younger than 18 years) and adults. The current network covers nearly 100 counties in the 10 Emerging Infections Program (EIP) states (CA, CO, CT, GA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR, and TN) and four additional states through the Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Project (IA, MI, OH, and UT). The network represents approximately 10% of US population (~32 million people).

Data gathered are used to estimate age-specific hospitalization rates on a weekly basis and describe characteristics of persons hospitalized with COVID-19. Laboratory confirmation is dependent on clinician-ordered SARS-CoV-2 testing. Therefore, the rates provided are likely to be underestimated as COVID-19-associated hospitalizations can be missed due to test availability and provider or facility testing practices.

## Impact on Asthma Interventions & Partners

### MAP Telehealth

In-home visits were temporarily suspended. Some sites have attempted virtual home visits and kept in touch with MAP clients through phone calls. The capacity of some sites to continue home visiting has been affected by home visitors being pulled into COVID-19 planning and response duties.

- One challenge that MAP sites faced was obtaining consent from prospective participants electronically. We were able to work with our legal team at DPHHS to verify that email consent is sufficient as long as the participant receives clear information on what they are consenting to. Language was developed and approved by the DPHHS legal team for use by MAP sites.
- Onehealth in Miles City is setting up the Tyto Care system for all virtual visits out of the health department.
- As restrictions loosen, local sites will determine when they begin conducting in-person home visits again. The MACP is working with DPHHS to establish guidelines for home visitors.

The MAP data collection system was edited to allow home visitors to indicate what type of visit was conducted. As we continue to explore the use of telehealth technology to conduct asthma “home visits” we plan to study the effectiveness of these visits compared to in-person visits. Setting up the data system now will allow us to review this data down the road.

## Other

Clinical asthma QI work was put on hold or slowed down in partner clinics and emergency departments. The AE-C Review Course, originally scheduled for May was reschedule for May 1-2, was moved to September 18-19, 2020.

School staff online trainings are up while in-person trainings planned as part of a school health mini-grant project have been cancelled. The focus of the school health mini-grant project must change focus, perhaps assessing policies or identifying students to refer to the MAP.

## Partner Impacts

Kaitlyn Frenk shared about her experiences at the Pediatric Pulmonology Clinic in Billings.

- Have not been doing Pulmonary Function Testing (PFTs) for 2 months. They are looking at resuming normal operation soon, but with special guidelines in place.
- The clinic has been able to conduct video visits with patients using Skype for Business
  - Medicaid will reimburse for these visits if they use both video and audio.
  - There is hope that these types of visits can continue on past COVID19, especially for families who may need to travel long distances to get to the office.
    - One potential issue could be families not wanting to come into the office if they feel that they could just call in instead.



# 5-year Strategic Plan Update

## CCARE

Children who visit the ED or urgent care, or who are hospitalized, are children whose asthma is not well-controlled. By tracking reductions in these visits and hospitalizations we can track improvements in the health of children with asthma.

The MACP contributes to the CDC's CCARE Objective by providing evidence-based interventions aligned with the CDC's "EXHALE" technical package. Nearly all of the MACP's interventions include children as a key target population.

## Healthy People 2020/2030

Over the past several years, MACP activities have contributed to the Healthy People 2020 objectives. These objectives tend to align, at least in part, with the performance measures in our federal asthma grant. Healthy People 2030 objectives were to be revealed this spring at a launch event, but due to the pandemic the launch has been indefinitely postponed. The objectives have been significantly cut down from Healthy People 2020, but the proposed objectives that remain still align with CCARE and the goals of the National Asthma Control Program.

## EXHALE Strategies/Logic Model

During the development of the Strategic Evaluation Plan, the MACP updated its logic model, which includes the EXHALE strategies and breaks out MACP interventions into the various categories. Key Priority Areas will align very closely with these strategies and infrastructure activities will also be incorporated in the priority areas.

The program held a strategic planning session at the Big Sky Pulmonary Conference in early March just before other events began seeing cancellations. Many of you on the call today participated and provided valuable input into the direction the MACP should take over the next 5 years. With the help of our facilitator and former evaluator, Anna Bradley, the group participated in a context mapping activity and small group discussions were focused on key components that are woven throughout our Key Priority Areas.

During the context mapping activity, we discussed uncertainties, healthcare trends and issues, and demographic trends and issues. The collective responses have helped the MACP identify trends and uncertainties to consider when draft the strategic plan.

The MACP will focus on three themes throughout all key topic areas.

1. Leveraging Technology
2. SDoH
3. Advocacy (Educating Policy Makers and Partners)

Key Priorities align with the EXHALE Strategies

1. Enhancing Infrastructure and Promoting Care Coordination
2. Achievement of Guidelines-Based Medical Management
3. Provider and Patient Education
4. Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation
5. Environment and Public Policy
6. SDoH and Health Disparities
7. Evaluation
8. Communication

The MACP has identified a set of guiding principles to inform program strategies and actions and the development of partnerships, including cross-agency partnerships. These guiding principles establish a framework for the MACP and its partners to act collectively to implement comprehensive programs that are efficient, effective, and sustainable.



1. Equity  
Achieve health equity by addressing the social determinants of health and expanding activities into rural communities; partnering with communities and American Indian tribes to reduce health disparities.
2. Collaboration and Partnerships  
Identify potential linkages and act upon opportunities to cooperate and partner responsibly to achieve greater impacts than can occur in isolation. All healthcare and public health partners understand, accept and fulfill their roles and responsibilities to ensure enhanced health outcomes for all Montanans.
3. Access to Guidelines Based Care and Community Support Services  
Guidelines based asthma care, Asthma Self-Management Education, and appropriate support and services are available, accessible and affordable for all Montanans.
4. Evidence-based  
Relevant and current evidence informs best practices and strengthens the knowledge base to effectively prevent and manage asthma and other chronic conditions. The use of consistent, quality data and real-time data sharing enables monitoring and quality improvement to achieve better health outcomes
5. Patient-centered approaches  
The health care system is designed to recognize and value the needs of individuals, their caregivers and their families, to provide coordinated care and support.

The MACP will be incorporating program strategies under each key topic area. The MACP will share a draft plan with key stakeholders in June and ask for feedback. Following a final round of edits the final draft will be shared with partners in late July or early August. Additional potential partners who were identified during the strategic planning session in March will receive a final copy of the Montana Asthma Plan.

## National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) Partnership

Please see the NEEF slides for more detailed information.

Can we work with Universities in Montana to incorporate training into nursing curriculum? NEEF trainings and content has been included in university curricula in Texas and Minnesota.

NEEF has established a partnership with the National Association of School Nurses. This includes the development of a tailored training for school nurses available on the NASN website. NEEF training curricula have been updated annually since 2017 and incorporate the most recent guidelines adopted in the United States.

## Community Integrated Health Review

Please see the CIH slides for detailed information about the history of CIH in Montana and the current pilot sites.

## Partner Updates

Rory Johnson, UM Skaggs School of Pharmacy

- UM pharmacy partners will continue to hold quarterly calls with Montana Family Pharmacies network and anyone other healthcare providers who are interested. The next call is on June 6, 2020. These calls are an opportunity to discuss current best practices and review important news that impacts asthma medication therapy management.
- Hometown MTM is still going strong even during the current pandemic.
- UM is working with Rocky Boy to explore pharmacist directed asthma telehealth services.

Kris Minard

- More and more school administrators are requiring school staff to complete the Creating Asthma Friendly Schools training on the OPI Teacher Learning Hub. This is a nice trend to see and we expect this to continue to grow.

## Closing and Plans for Next Meeting

The next MAAG meeting is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will take place in Helena and a call-in option will be available.

