

MAAG Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

MACP Program Report

2025 In-Review & 2026 Focus

- Stock Albuterol:
In the spring of 2025, **Montana joined 26 other states in allowing K-12 schools to obtain and supply stock albuterol.** The Stock Albuterol in Schools Implementation Guide was created by DPHHS to help guide schools through the process. Several schools have reached out for information and a handful of districts have received school health mini-grants from the MACP to help support policy adoption and staff education. At this point, only two instances of stock albuterol use have been reported into the mandatory reporting platform.
dphhs.mt.gov/schoolhealth/chronichealth/asthma
- Clean Indoor Air Act:
Oct. 1, 2025, marked the 20-year anniversary of the passage of the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act. E-cigarettes were added to the Clean Indoor Air Act during the 2025 Legislative Session. With this addition, Montana is now among 20 states that have included e-cigarettes in their comprehensive smoke-free laws.
- Creating Asthma Friendly Childcare Training Revamped:
New training found at: www.childcaretraining.org
- MAP Outreach – Pharmacy Insert Campaign:
The MACP mailed pharmacy inserts to 134 pharmacies across 16 counties in February. Each pharmacy on our list received 25 of each insert and a letter explaining the MAP and what is being asked of pharmacists. The hope is that pharmacists will include the inserts in bags with asthma medications. Partners can request these from the MACP if interested.
 - Yvette Anderson- Suggestion for MAP Pharmacy Inserts
Have a conversation with pharmacy staff if at all possible, to communicate patient needs. This could be with pharmacy techs and/or pharmacists.
 - Q: Any plans to get the inserts to schools and childcares?
 - No plans yet, but it's something the MACP could explore
- Asthma Education Material Store – Under Development (Coming Summer 2026)
- Big Sky Pulmonary Conference – March 5-6th, 2026
 - Still time to register. 14 CME available this year, including a pre-conference spirometry session. Register here: <https://www.umt.edu/big-sky-pulmonary/>
- Partner Conferences
 - Healthcare Professionals for a Healthy Climate - Climate Conference
March 7, 2026 | www.montanahphc.org
 - Montana Society for Respiratory Care
April 5-6, 2026 | www.msrcmt.org

- MACP Strategic Plan – Looking Ahead
 - *Public Health and Healthcare Infrastructure*
 - Continue to support the expansion of the CONNECT Electronic Referral System
 - Adding 2 new Asthma Home Visiting Program sites – opening home visiting positions to CHWs and EMS professionals.
 - *Achievement of Guidelines-Based Medical Management*
 - MACP has included a SDOH screening component as part of our clinical quality improvement projects.
 - Provider education opportunities like the Big Sky Pulmonary Conference, the Certified Asthma Educators courses, and supporting partner conferences
 - *Patient & Caregiver Education*
 - MACP will look for opportunities to support pharmacy led medication therapy management and AS-ME
 - Revisit conversations with the larger insurers in the state to see if they would be open to covering MAP or including MAP as optional incentive program
 - *Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation*
 - Continue to incorporate tobacco in clinical QI efforts
 - Promote Quitlines across all interventions
 - *Environmental Policies & Best Practices to Reduce Asthma Triggers*
 - Clean Air Center Pilot Site >> Summarizing and translating findings for replication statewide
 - Asthma awareness during wildfire season
 - Partner with local support organizations to increase access to HEPA air cleaners or other IAQ tools
 - Promotion of school IAQ resources

Surveillance & Evaluation

- See slides for overview of draft surveillance report findings and draft evaluations.
- Resource Highlight: CDC Asthma Cost Calculator
 The cost calculator uses data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), US Census, Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS), the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Community Survey (ACS), and the Current Population Survey (CPS). This dashboard is still an ongoing development and is subject to change.

Air Quality & Wildfire Smoke Efforts

- Community Preparedness Template
 - Available to Montana communities to help incorporate wildfire smoke planning into emergency response plans and community wildfire plans.
 - Public Health Emergency Preparedness and MACP did a table top exercise with Lewis in Clark County, Jefferson County, and Blackfeet Nation in January – potentially something the PHEP could replicate in the future.
- Prescribed Burning
 - Posters and social media are under development. These resources could be distributed on the local level in conjunction with Forest Service partners to increase awareness of air quality concerns and what buildings and individuals can do to protect health. (using Bend, Oregon as an example)

- Center for Green Schools
 - Starting a 1-year residency program for school personnel.
 - Participants take the lead to help their school learn about indoor air quality.
 - Funding may be available to help support air quality improvement projects.

Healthy Housing Environments

- Rapid Activity: Healthy Housing × Asthma – Partner Pulse
Who should be at the table? What needs or gaps are showing up? How could public health support this work?
 - The meeting agenda didn't allow adequate time for this activity. Limited group discussion focused on the following topics or talking points.
 - Important to have schools and child care centers at the table because they spend so much time in those settings.
 - Public health should especially consider children who are living in more than one home. Messaging may get to one home but not another. Is there a way to make sure education on IAQ travels....?
- Missoula Housing Authority Share
Sara Stout and Kelee Boland
 - Founded in 1978 – Quasi-governmental
 - Provide affordable housing to roughly 4,500 residents through direct rentals and voucher programs. Target primarily: Low/Middle income, workforce housing, veterans, families with children, elderly, disabled, foster youth, individuals experiencing homelessness
 - Activity that supports healthy housing
 - Maintenance: Maintenance crews have a well defined system for changing out HVAC system filters in all units on a regular schedule. They also have a regular cleaning rotation schedule.
 - MHA is working to remove carpet in many of the units they own
 - AC units intentionally installed in 400 newer units with wildfire smoke in mind.
 - Accommodations can be requested based on chronic conditions and needs- this could include better HVAC filters.
 - Partnered with Climate Smart Missoula to help distribute HEPA air cleaners to interested tenants.
 - Offered to share MACP resources with landlords/facility managers
 - Q: How are you funded?
 - Own our properties and we are funded through typical means in terms of taking out loans to build our properties.
 - Voucher programs funded through federal government (serve as pass through)

Partner Sharing

- Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council has launched a campaign titled "Be Smart. Don't Start". This campaign features three Native American youths and is a call to action against vaping. By scanning the QR code on each poster and watching the accompanying videos, individuals can access valuable information to raise awareness of the risks associated with vaping.

<https://www.rmtlc.org/good-health-wellness-in-indian-country-cdc/#videos>

Attendance:

BJ Biskupiak	MT Asthma Control Program- Program Manager
Colin Gale	MT Asthma Control Program- CDPHP Data Analyst
Katie Sheehy	MT DPHHS- State School Nurse Consultant
Mary Anderson	MT Asthma Control Program- Wildfire Smoke Coordinator
Angie Brakefield	MT Asthma Control Program- Health Education Specialist
Mary Anderson	MT Asthma Control Program- Air Quality/Wildfire Smoke Coordinator
Callan Conroy	MT DPHHS- Quality Improvement Specialist
Marti Kuntz, RN	Helena Public Schools
Jennifer Vandekop	Anaconda Deer Lodge Health Department- MAP Home Visitor
Karen Graf, RN	National Association of School Nurses
Marian Kummer, MD	American Academy of Pediatrics
Breanne Josephson, RRT	Richland County Health Department- MAP Home Visitor
Jillian Boll, RN	Flathead County Health Department - MAP Home Visitor
Kelly Keenan	Gallatin County Health Department – Director of Prevention Services (MAP Supervisor)
Autumn Ramsrud, PharmD	Genentech
Rachel Zins, PharmD	University of Montana, Skaggs School of Pharmacy
Courtney Geary, MPH	MT Asthma Control Program- Epidemiologist/Evaluator
Will Gardner, MPH, CPH	DPHHS Health Improvement Section – Lead Epidemiologist
LeAnn Harrison, RN	oneHealth (Custer County Health Department)- MAP Home Visitor
Kris Kilen	Mountain Pacific Quality Health- Regional Supervisor, Prevention and Health Promotion
Yvette Anderson, PharmD, RPh	Glaxo Smith Kline- Medical Science Liaison
Sara Stout	Missoula Housing Authority
Kellee Boland	Missoula Housing Authority
Margaret Mullins	DPHHS SDOH Coordinator

