

*Collaborations to improve the
outcomes of children with asthma*

Sharon Adams-Taylor, AASA

Kelly A. Beckwith, AASA

Brenda Z. Greene, NSBA

Linda Sheriff, NSBA

Rebecca Roberts, AASA



About Us

- American Association of School Administrators
 - School system leaders association since 1864 with affiliates representing 50 states, Canada, and overseas educators
 - Mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children.
 - Stand Up for Public Education – getting schools ready for children, children ready for schools and children ready for democracy.



About Us

- National School Boards Association
 - Federation of state associations of school boards across the U.S. that serves the interests of 95,500 local school board members and the nearly 15,000 local school districts they govern
 - Mission is to foster excellence and equity in public education through school board leadership
 - School Health Programs department provides information, technical assistance and educational programming to inform school board decision making around health issues that affect student achievement, healthy youth development and effective operation of schools



AASA/NSBA Partnership

- Funding from CDC-DASH
 - Reducing the Burden of Asthma by Providing Capacity Building Assistance to State and Local Education Agencies
 - Awarded to AASA, with sub-contract to NSBA
 - 5-year cooperative agreement
 - One of only two NGOs funded nationally for asthma
- Asthma Leadership Project
 - Targets “top-tier” decision makers within school districts



Why Asthma?

- Nearly 1 in 13 school-aged children have asthma
 - About 5 million children ¹
- 15 million school days missed due to asthma ¹
- In 2003, 154 children under 15 died from asthma. ²
- Disproportionately impacts poor children and children of color ^{1,3}
 - Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander – 22% (California data only)
 - Puerto Rican – 19.2%
 - Non-Hispanic Black – 12.7%
 - Asian – 11.7% (California data only)
 - Non-Hispanic White – 8.0%

1-Statistics from CDC/DASH (<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/asthma/index.htm>);

2-American Lung Association Fact Sheet (<http://www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=dvLUK9O0E&b=44352>)

3-American Lung Association Asthma and Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders
(<http://www.lungusa.org/site/pp.asp?c=dvLUK9O0E&b=312160>)



Asthma Leadership Project

- Cannot do it alone – partnerships are key
- Our activities
 - **Building Bridges: Parents and Schools Focused on Asthma**
 - **Leadership Forum for Healthy Students and Schools**
 - Assessing school board policies
 - Communications kit for school leaders
 - Materials dissemination, conference sessions



Building Bridges: Parents and Schools Focused on Asthma

- Year 1
 - A broad, beginning conversation between organizations representing schools, parent, and asthma groups
 - How do we work together to reduce the burden of asthma among children and youth?
- Findings (Challenges/Solutions)
 - Find common ground
 - Involve key stakeholders
 - Speak in the appropriate language for the audience
 - Use peer education (by/for administrators)
 - Create safe space to dialogue



Building Bridges: Parents and Schools Focused on Asthma

- Year 2
 - Focus on communication between school leaders and parent leaders regarding asthma
 - Focus groups at Council of Urban Boards of Education and PTA National Convention
- Findings
 - School nurses are essential to asthma management
 - Asthma is a liability issue and affects achievement
 - Gap exists between what parents need and what school leadership can provide
 - Resources exist from multiple organizations
 - Capacity-building for both school leaders and parents



Leadership Forum for Healthy Students and Healthy Schools

- Collaboration between leadership of administrator association and school board association in five states:
 - Indiana
 - Kentucky
 - Montana
 - Michigan
 - Wisconsin



Leadership Forum for Healthy Students and Healthy Schools

- Each state has different needs
- Each state has different capacities
- Initial meeting brought the teams together for the first time in January 2007
 - Established team camaraderie
 - Established initial team plans
 - Looked at state asthma data
 - Looked at strengths and gaps within team



Leadership Forum for Healthy Students and Healthy Schools

- Composition of a team
 - Each team started out with 4 members, most with Association staff, plus members (superintendent and/or school board member)
 - After the first initial meeting, most branched out to fill gaps
 - Nurses (public health and in school)
 - Coordinated school health directors
 - Students
 - Asthma experts (ALA; state/local asthma coalitions)
 - State employees (public health, education)
 - University professors
- Creation of teams increased commitment and participation in other coalitions and groups



Leadership Forum for Healthy Students and Healthy Schools

- Each state assessed its capacity and need and created its own plan
 - Indiana is collecting absenteeism data
 - Wisconsin is building awareness by using media to reach members
 - Kentucky and Michigan are building awareness by making presentations
 - Montana is looking at school board and state policy



Leadership Forum for Healthy Students and Healthy Schools

- Ongoing technical assistance to teams
 - Through email
 - Monthly e-newsletters
 - Individually
 - August 2007 Team Leader meeting in Indianapolis, IN
 - Quarterly conference calls
 - Upcoming full-team meeting (December 2007)
 - In-person meetings TBD
- Mini-grants
 - Each team awarded \$2500 to further their plans
 - Capacity building resulting from capacity building



Thank you!

Kelly A. Beckwith, MPH, CHES

American Association of School Administrators

801 N. Quincy St., Suite 700

Arlington, VA 22203

703-875-0760

kbeckwith@aasa.org

