

NATIONAL CAPITAL ASTHMA COALITION
AND
Rx4DC PARTNERS

A MEETING TO DISCUSS CURRENT ISSUES
AFFECTING DC'S HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

Greater Washington Board of Trade
SunTrust Conference Center
1725 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

MINUTES

Total Attendees = 54

Community Participants (49):

	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1.	Anita	Amero	Coalition for Environmentally Safe Communities
2.	Aurora	Amoah, MPH	Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health & the Environment
3.	Ray Michael	Bridgewater	Assembly of Petworth
4.	Wanda	Burns, RNC, BSN	DC Chartered Health Plan, Inc.
5.	Cristina	Calderón	American Lung Association of DC.
6.	Jo	Campanilla	National Kidney Foundation
7.	Juanita	Campbell	Consumer
8.	Cherie	Carroll	National Kidney Foundation
9.	Tom	Chapman	The HSC Foundation
10.	Cathy	Chapman	DC Housing Authority
11.	Adrienne G.	Collier	UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School-Camden
12.	Linda H.	Coulombe	National Children's Museum
13.	Vernette	Daniels	DC Department of Health
14.	Jaelyn	Davis	Children's Health Project of DC, Children's National Medical Center
15.	Edwina	Davis-Robinson	DC Department of Health
16.	Cecil	Doggette	Health Services for Children With Special Needs, Inc.
17.	Janet N.	Edwards	GlaxoSmithKline
18.	Craig	Engler, RRT	Children's National Medical Center
19.	Janine	Fetters, M.S.	Student Support Center
20.	Karina	Flores-Hurley	Self Reliance Foundation
21.	Sandra	Fusco-Walker	Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics
22.	Lisa A.	Gilmore	National Capital Asthma Coalition
23.	Denise E.	Grant, MA	DC Department of Health
24.	Linda M.	Holifield, M.A.	DC Department of Health
25.	Eartha	Isaac	DC Department of Health

	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
26.	Michael	Jackson	Community Action Group of Holy Comforter Saint Cyprian
27.	Dave	Jacobs	National Center for Healthy Housing
28.	Tonya Vidal	Kinlow	District of Columbia Hospital Association
29.	Mary Frances	Kornack	DC Department of Health
30.	Janice	Lewis	US EPA, Region 3
31.	George	Mapp	Consultant, Information Management
32.	John	Marchant	Howard Consulting Group
33.	Mary E.	McGowan	Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics
34.	La-Fuell	Moore	US EPA, Region 3
35.	Lessly	Palencia	Spanish Catholic Center of Catholic Charities
36.	Dr. Jerome A.	Paulson, M.D.	Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health & the Environment
37.	Debbie	Quint	Improving Pediatric Asthma Care in the District of Columbia
38.	Reginald	Ringgold	DC Public Schools
39.	Joanna	Rivera, RN	Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care
40.	Dr. Candace	Scales, M.D.	Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
41.	K. Edward	Shanbacker	Medical Society of the District of Columbia
42.	Rhonique	Shields-Harris, MD	Children's Health Project of DC, Children's National Medical Center
43.	Theresa	Shivers	United Planning Organization
44.	Susan	Sweitzer	Asthma & Allergy Foundation Maryland-Greater DC Chapter
45.	Debi H.	Tucker, Esq.	American Hospital Association
46.	Shanita	Verner	Consumer
47.	Michael D.	Ward, BS, CPA	Walker & Co., LLP
48.	Victoria	Wells	American Cancer Society, South Atlantic Division
49.	Malissa	Winograd	Children's Environmental Health Network

National Capital Asthma Coalition (NCAC) (1):

1.	Lisa A	Gilmore	Executive Director
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Rx4DC (4):

1.	Frank J.	Howard, Jr.	Howard Consulting Group, Inc.
2.	Lasava S	Tidwell	Howard Consulting Group, Inc.
3.	John	Marchant	Howard Consulting Group, Inc.
4.	Jeremy	Art	Howard Consulting Group, Inc.

Acknowledgements:

We thank our partners for their many contributions to NCAC and Rx4DC. We also thank Rx4DC for providing the luncheon and additional in-kind support for this meeting.

NCAC and Rx4DC Meeting Packet:

Left side:

1. Rx4DC Brochure: “**A Partnership for Prescription Assistance Program. A one-stop CLEARINGHOUSE for access to FREE and NEARLY FREE medicines**”
2. NCAC Handout: “**The DC Asthma-Friendly Training and Awards Program: A Comprehensive School Asthma and Anaphylaxis Management Campaign**” (*The Asthma-Friendly Schools Training and Awards Program is funded, in part, by the Government of the District of Columbia, Department of Health, Maternal and Primary Care Administration*)
3. Asthma Action Plan: **New standard Asthma Action Plan** form developed by Children’s National Medical Center and NCAC’s Health Services and Quality Improvement Committee
4. Report: “**NCAC Progress Report/Committee Updates as of July 2007**”
5. Legislation: “**Student Access to Treatment Emergency Act of 2007**” developed and advocated by NCAC’s Policy Committee and introduced by Councilmember David Catania passed unanimously by the Council of the District of Columbia on July 10, 2007
6. Join NCAC: **Organizational Members, Membership Form, and Committee Descriptions**

Right Side:

7. Meeting Agenda: “**NCAC and Rx4DC Partners: A Meeting to Discuss Current Issues Affecting DC’s Health Care Community**”
8. Activity: “**An Interactive Framework for Building Coalitions**”
9. Flyer: “**Asthma Management and Education[®] Program,**” presented by Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America and co-hosted by NCAC. To request the program, please contact Lisa A. Gilmore, NCAC, at 202-223-1882 or at lgilmore@natcapasthma.org
10. Flyer: “**Waiting to Exhale Asthma Seminar**” sponsored by Children’s Health Project of DC, Wednesday, August 15, 2007, 5:30 p.m., Children’s Health Center @ THEARC, 1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE, Washington, DC. To RSVP, please call 202-436-3060
11. Flyer: “**Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners Course,**” August 20-21, Alexandria, VA, \$45. To register, go to <http://www.healthyhomestraining.org/schedules.htm#JHU> or call Mary L. Doyle at 410-955-0423 or at mdoyle@jhsph.edu.
12. Flyer: “**5th Annual Conference on Children’s Health and the Environment,**” October 6, 2007, Hyatt Reston, VA, organized by organized by the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PESHU) of Region 3; the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment (MACCHE). For details, visit <http://www.gwu.edu/~macche/restonconference07/> or contact Aurora Amoah at eohaoa@gwumc.edu or at 1-866-MACCHE1 (622-2431).

Lunch: 11:15 a.m.

Meeting called to order: 11:30 p.m.

I. Special Presentation (11:30 AM – 11:35 AM)

A. In Appreciation of Walker & Company, LLP

- Tom Chapman, Chair, NCAC's Board of Directors, expressed NCAC's appreciation to Walker & Company for the pro bono accounting services it has generously donated by NCAC. From setting up NCAC's budget and accounting system last year to completing our first IRS 990 this May, Walker & Co., LLP has enabled NCAC to make a smooth transition from functioning as a program to operating as an independent 501(c)(3) organization.
- As a token of NCAC's appreciation, Dr. Chapman presented Michael D. Ward, Partner, Walker & Company, LLP with a pencil box created by the homeless and at-risk youth members of the Covenant House Washington Artisans Program (www.covenanthousedc.org) and engraved with the message, "Thank you for your valuable service." NCAC also provided pencil boxes to Walker & Co.'s Ronald P. Walker, Managing Partner, and Jeffery Skinner, Accountant, for their support and contributions.

II. Welcome (11:35 AM – 11:45 AM)

A. Introductions

- Lisa A. Gilmore, NCAC's Executive Director, and Frank Howard, Rx4DC, opened the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves and to make a brief statement to the group.

III. Discussion of Current Issues Affecting DC's Health Care Community (11:45 AM – 11:55 AM)

A. Rx4DC Program Update

- Frank Howard presented an overview of the Rx4DC program (www.Rx4DC.org or 202-457-9432), created by about four years ago to provide a single point of access to nearly 475 public, private, and local DC Patient Assistance Programs for free and nearly free medicines.
- Rx4DC subsequently became part of the national Partnership for Prescription Assistance Program (PPA) (www.pparx.org) launched by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America as part of a national coalition of national, state, and local organizations. Montel Williams became a national PPA spokesman in January 2006.
- Since its launch in April 2005, PPA has helped connect nearly connect nearly four million people to patient assistance.
- PPA has a real presence in the DC area with many involved local organizations. For example, the PPA Bus visited Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care about a month and a half ago to help individuals access this service. The PPA Bus also has toured Maryland, Delaware, and other local and regional sites.

- Frank shared the story of an individual with kidney disease whose insurance coverage maxed out at \$1,000 a year for medicines but whose average monthly medicine costs were \$900. PPA was able to take care of his medication needs.
- The PPA Program also helps patients contact government programs such as Medicaid, Medicare and SCHIP and assists Medicare beneficiaries with information about the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit.
- Frank encourage participants to join Rx4DC to bring this program to their clients and members. Rx4DC also can provide trainings on how to use the Rx4DC program to help patients in need. **To learn more about participating in Rx4DC or to schedule an Rx4DC training, please contact the Howard Consulting Group, Inc. at 202-429-4390 or at info@howardconsultinggroup.com.**

B. Chronic Disease Initiatives

- A new coalition, known as the **Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease** (www.fightchronicdisease.org), is working to address the growing problems of asthma, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, kidney disease, and other chronic conditions. Chaired by former Surgeon General Richard Carmona, MD, MPH, the coalition includes a cross-section of health professional, business, labor, consumer, and community organizations working together to educate the public about chronic disease and to push to make chronic disease a primary concern for state and federal policy-makers.

IV. Partner Program Updates (11:55 AM – 12:20 AM)

A. Upcoming Events

- Lisa Gilmore referred to the flyers included in the meeting packets asked participants to share information about their upcoming activities:
 - Dr. Rhonique Shields-Harris described her upcoming **Waiting to Exhale Asthma Seminar** at THEARC on Wednesday, August 15, 2007 sponsored by the Children’s Health Project of DC, Children’s National Medical Center. The seminar will be held at the Children’s Health Center @ THEARC, 1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE, Washington, DC starting at 5:30 a.m. To RSVP, please call 202-436-3060. For the families who attend, there will be a raffle for a free nebulizer machine and families also can sign up for a free asthma home assessment.
 - Dave Jacobs of the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) invited participants to register for **NCHH’s Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioner Course** to be conducted by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Alexandria, Virginia on August 20-21, 2007. The program also will offer the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) credential exam immediately after the course. To register, go to <http://www.healthyhomestraining.org/schedules.htm#JHU> or call Mary L. Doyle at 410-955-0423 or at mdoyle@jhsph.edu. More information about the NEHA exam is at <http://www.healthyhomestraining.org/Credential/index.htm>.

- Dr. Jerome Paulson announced the **5th Annual Conference on Children's Health and the Environment**, organized by the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit of Region 3, the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE). Topics will explore the intersection between the environment and child health issues, and continuing education credits will be available. For details, visit <http://www.gwu.edu/~macche/restonconference07/> or contact Aurora Amoah at eohaoa@gwumc.edu or at 1-866-MACCHE1 (622-2431).
- Lisa Gilmore described the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America's (AAFA) **Asthma Management and Education[®] Program** which provides an overview of asthma, factors contributing to asthma severity, medications, peak flow meters, and the patient/clinician partnership. The program includes continuing education credits for registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and respiratory therapists. NCAC is working with AAFA to schedule dates for this FREE training in the Greater Washington, DC area. To request the program, please contact Lisa A. Gilmore, NCAC, at 202-223-1882 or at lgilmore@natcapasthma.org.
- Susan Sweitzer, Executive Director of AAFA's Maryland-Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter added that AAFA offers a number of additional programs for professionals and for the community.
- Lisa thanked Wanda Burns from Chartered Health Plan for co-hosting *NCAC's Physician Asthma Care Education (PACE) Seminar* on May 22, 2007 and Ms. Denise Grant, Tobacco Program Manager, DC Department of Health for providing the funding support for this seminar.
- Denise Grant, Program Manager, Tobacco Control Program, DC Department of Health Tobacco Control Program, announced the **first annual DC Tobacco Free Families Conference for DC Community and Faith-Based Organizations** to be held on September 27, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Blackburn Conference Center, Howard University, Washington, DC. To register, call 202-466-5864 or visit www.dctff.org and click on "contact us."

Lisa added that through the American Lung Association and the American Cancer Society, DC residents now can call **1-800-QUIT-NOW** to receive free tobacco cessation counseling and can visit several distribution clinics to receive the Nicoderm CQ patch and the Commit lozenge at no cost thanks to a donation by GlaxoSmithKline. Visit www.dctff.org for more information.

- Lessly Palencia of Spanish Catholic Center of Catholic Charities announced that a **pulmonologist is now available at Spanish Catholic Center two days a week**. Spanish Catholic Center provides preventative and curative primary care services for low-income, uninsured adults (1618 Monroe Street, Washington, DC 20010) and for children and adults (1015 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring, MD). For more information, contact Lessly Palencia at (202) 939-2411.

V. DC Department of Health's DC CAN Program (12:20 PM – 12:40 PM)

A. Student Access to Treatment Emergency Act of 2007

- In her introduction of Edwina Davis-Robinson, Program Manager, DC Control Asthma Now (DC CAN) Program, DC Department of Health (DOH), Lisa Gilmore highlighted Edwina's key role in the passage of the "Student Access to Treatment Emergency Act of 2007," developed and advocated by DOH, DC Public Schools, and NCAC's Policy Committee and introduced by Councilmember David Catania. The legislation, passed unanimously by the DC Council on July 10, 2007 and pending Mayor Fenty's signature, permits a student with a medication action plan to possess and self-administer asthma and anaphylaxis medications. Thanks to the support of these partners, the legislation also includes a provision to allow, through subsequent regulation, student self-administration of other medications for potentially life-threatening illness (e.g., diabetes).

[Note: NCAC also is grateful to Sandra Fusco-Walker and her colleagues at the Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics (AANMA) for their ongoing assistance over the past two years in support of this policy. AANMA championed students' rights to lifesaving medications at the local, state, and federal level, resulting in the passage of the Public Law 108-377, "The Asthmatic Schoolchildren's Treatment and Health Management Act of 2004," signed into law by President Bush on October 30, 2004.]

B. DC Control Asthma Now (DC CAN) Program, DC Department of Health

- Edwina Davis-Robinson noted that DC CAN is currently in the last year of a three-year funding cycle from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for asthma management and surveillance. DC CAN recently submitted a two-year funding renewal proposal to the CDC. It is expected that all of the states will be applying for this funding this year, making this process a highly competitive one.
- DC CAN has had a number of notable accomplishments. For example, it:
 1. Conducted a *State of Asthma in the District of Columbia Conference* on September 13, 2006 as a first step to revising the strategies and objectives in the *Strategic Asthma Plan for the District of Columbia*.
 2. Funded about 15 asthma education programs in DC charter schools.
 3. Educated 100 daycare providers on asthma management.
 4. Conducted a World Asthma Day event on Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at River Terrace Elementary School (Ward 7) with Dr. Rhonique Shields-Harris, Children's Health Project of DC. The program engaged students in grades three through six in interactive activities in each classroom to learn about asthma and to reduce the stigma of asthma. The National Children's Museum assisted with the program. Altogether, approximately 150 children participated in the program.

5. Supported the collection of asthma emergency department (ED) data from DC hospitals by IMPACT DC (Improving Pediatric Asthma Care in the District of Columbia), including, for the first time, data on adult asthma ED visits. Most notably, a lot of other states do not have access to such data from their hospitals or have to mandate its collection through legislation.
- Edwina added that in 2005, following the passage of the federal Asthmatic Schoolchildren’s Treatment and Health Management Act of 2004 which gave funding “preference to states that require schools to allow students to self-administer medication to treat that student’s asthma or anaphylaxis,” NCAC took the ball and started rolling with it to develop similar legislation in DC and to work collaboratively on a standard Asthma Action Plan form.
 - Further, Edwina noted, Eartha Isaac led DOH’s successful effort to add a provision to the DC law to allow student self-administration of other medications for potentially life-threatening illness (e.g., diabetes) through regulation rather than through future legislation.

C. Participant Discussion

- Lisa added that DC CAN’s work with stakeholders to update its Strategic Asthma Plan will provide useful guidance to NCAC and its committees.
- In response to a question, Eartha Isaac, Policy Advisor, Child, Adolescent and School Health Bureau, DOH, highlighted the fact that the Student Access to Treatment Emergency Act of 2007 applies to all DC public, private, and parochial schools, not just DC Public Schools (DCPS). It provides an opportunity for DOH to improve school health services for all DC children.
- Victoria Wells from the American Cancer Society asked Lisa Gilmore to discuss NCAC’s current policy agenda. Lisa responded first that NCAC is assisting DOH and DCPS in policy implementation through its *Asthma-Friendly Schools Training and Awards Program*. NCAC is producing an school asthma/anaphylaxis manual and a training session to be attended by all DC public and public charter schools scheduled for October 18 and to be repeated on October 19. Dr. Jerry Paulson and Aurora Amoah from The George Washington University’s Mid-Atlantic Center for Children’s Health and the Environment are assisting NCAC in this program along with a workgroup of committed NCAC partners.

Second, Lisa added, NCAC is participating in a workgroup convened by the DC Primary Care Association to develop school health guidelines that will put in place standards and best practices for health services in DC Public Schools. The guidelines will cover a range of school health issues.

- Lisa then asked Victoria for policy recommendations for NCAC. Victoria discussed the need to get DC Medicaid to provide coverage for tobacco cessation counseling and related services to assist tobacco users to quit.

VI. Coalition-Building (12:40 PM – 1:20 PM)

A. A Framework for Building Successful Coalitions

- Lisa Gilmore gave a PowerPoint presentation on the steps to coalition success excerpted with permission from a presentation by Frances D. Butterfoss, PhD, an expert on coalition development at the Division of Community Health and Research, Eastern Virginia Medical School. Lisa gave an overview of the benefits and challenges of coalitions and why coalition members choose to participate or choose not to participate.
- She concluded with a list of additional resources on coalitions, including Dr. Butterfoss' recently published a new book on coalitions (Butterfoss, FD. *Coalitions and Partnerships for Community Health*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2007) and the Community Tool Box (at <http://ctb.ku.edu>) created and maintained by the Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.
- Lisa then presented a series of tools to stimulate a discussion on how to recruit and retain an active diverse leadership and engaged participants in an activity using NCAC as an example to identify what types of organizations and individuals are in the coalition and what sectors are underrepresented.
- At the conclusion of the activity, participants reviewed the breakdown of NCAC member organizations by sector and shared the following observations:
 - Environmental organizations are underrepresented in the coalition.
 - Professional associations, such as the DC Hospital Association and the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, should be identified as a separate sector, not grouped under “Businesses.”
 - Furthermore, “Education” is such a broad category that it could include schools, academic institutions, and organizations that provide educational services on various issues in the community.
 - Moreover, some organizations could be listed under multiple sectors, for example, a community-based organization that provides education services could be included under “Education” as well as “Community.”
 - Faith-based organizations are very engaged in Rx4DC’s education and community outreach activities to spread the word and very active in advocacy, including writing letters and making phone calls to policymakers. While NCAC has partnered with faith-based groups on specific events to reach the community, there are no faith-based organizations listed among NCAC’s members or active in its committees.

VII. Wrap Up (1:20 PM – 1:30 PM)

A. Discussion

- Participants engaged in an active discussion of ongoing environmental concerns in DC, including the high rate of asthma among children and adults living near the Potomac Electric Power Co. (PEPCO) generating plant in the River Terrace Community in Ward 7. Janice Lewis from the Air Protection Division in Region III of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) indicated that her colleague, Reginald Harris, Senior Toxicologist/Regional Environmental Justice Coordinator Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice, continues to work on this issue. Reginald Harris may be reached at harris.reggie@epamail.epa.gov. Janice also continues to spend time in this area to keep up-to-date on matters of concern to the DC community. Janice added that DC has applied for an EPA Clean Schools Bus USA grant to retrofit its school buses to make them less polluting.
- Michael Jackson of the Community Action Group of Holy Comforter Saint Cyprian announced that his program recently enrolled a number of DC residents in training programs at the University of the District of Columbia to enable them to become certified in pest management and as home inspectors

B. Additional Announcements

- Karina Flores-Hurley, Chief Editor of *ConCiencia Newswire Service* at the Self Reliance Foundation invited participants to submit news stories to be distributed as Spanish-language health and science content to media outlets nationwide. Karina may be reached at 202-360-4111 or at Karina.Hurley@srfdc.org.
- Janice Lewis noted that there is currently a memorandum of understanding between the EPA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Head Start Bureau to conduct outreach nationwide on secondhand smoke and asthma. More information on “Care for Their Air: Promoting Smoke-free Homes for Head Start Families” is available at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/headstart/index.html>.
- Wanda Burns reported that Chartered Health Plan has teamed up with Vaccines for Children Program to administer DC schoolchildren their required vaccinations before the coming school year. Immunization clinics will be held at THEARC and other community sites. For more information, please contact Wanda Burns at (202) 408-3995 or wburns@chartered-health.com.
- Theresa Shivers of the United Planning Organization (UPO) asked for participants to assist UPO in recruiting children ages 3-5 years old for the Head Start Program. There also are a smaller number of spaces available for children up to 3 years of age in UPO’s Early Head Start. For applications, call UPO at (202) 238-4600, then dial “1” and x“5” for Pre-School, Head Start, and daycare programs.
- Lessly Palencia announced that the Spanish Catholic Center of Catholic Charities will be holding a dental clinic on August 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at its Mount Pleasant Branch at 1618 Monroe Street, NW, Washington, DC 20010.

Meeting adjourned: 1:30 p.m.