

South Florida Regional Asthma Consortium  
Planning Group  
February 8, 2008  
Meeting Minutes

**1) Introductions/Attendees (Andrew Cuddihy)**

**Andrew Cuddihy**- American Lung Association- group is exciting because not much has happened in South Florida regarding asthma research. People are realizing asthma should be a top priority, and a number of people have expressed interest

**Dr. Don Torok**- College of Education at Florida Atlantic University

**Caroline Sterns**- Miami-Dade County Health Department

**Heather Montoya**- American Lung Association

**Tim Patton**- Barry University

**Racquel Siegel**- Health Care District of Palm Beach

**Erskine Clerjeune**- Barry University

**Sandy Lobar**- Florida International University

**Phillippa Turner**- Broward County Health Department (representing Elaine Jordan)

**Denise Robinette**- Healthy Living Foundation

**Gail Adams**- Broward County School Board (representing Maureen O'Keefe)

**Alison Hadler**- Florida Children's Environmental Health Alliance (FCEHA)

**Mike Melchior**- FCEHA

**Dr. Janvier Gasana**- FCEHA, Florida International University

**Shiryn Sukhram**- Florida International University

**Avinash Sukhram**- Florida International University

**2) PowerPoint Presentation on Asthma Pathogenesis (Dr. Janvier Gasana)**

- See handouts:
  - “Asthma Pathophysiology & Pathogenesis”
  - “Asthma in America: Survey (National Results)”
  - “Asthma in America: Survey (Regional Results- Miami)”

**3) Final Touch on Vision/Goals/Mission (Mike Melchior)**

- Briefly discussed vision and mission last meeting
- Developed: Vision/Mission/Goals/Committees
- **Committees** (confirmed and /or suggested)
  1. **School and Health Department Advisory Committee:**
    - Elaine Jordan
    - Cindy Vallo
    - Karen Weller
    - Pamela Toomer
    - Caroline Sterns
    - Heather Montoya
    - Maureen O'Keefe
    - Wilma Steiner - Miami-Dade County Public School Health Program
    - Racquel Siegel
  2. **Asthma Diagnosis and Management Advisory Committee:**

- Physician - Florida Center for Allergy and Asthma Care
- Dr. Mavunda – Private Practice
- Physicians from University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital

**3. Community and Advocacy Advisory Committee:**

- Denise Robinette
- Andrew Cuddihy
- Rev. Ted Greer- American Lung Association board of directors

**4. Research and Evaluation Advisory Committee:**

- Dr. Torok
- Dr. Gasana
- Mike Melchior
- Alison Hadler
- Sandra Lobar

**4) Pilot Study (Dr. Janvier Gasana)**

- Interested in creating pilot study by replicating John Hopkins' Inner City Asthma Study (ICAS)
- CIH Environmental Solutions, Inc.- volunteer time to assess 20 homes in Miami-Dade County (one week Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH)) but will need \$5,000 to cover lab expenses, materials, etc.
- Lab in Clearwater wants to donate analysis and help look for funding sources for coalition
- Need budget to look at 20 homes in Overtown funded by Royal Caribbean along with additional 20 in each Miami-Dade County funded by coalition
- Allergens differ by community
- Need to cover fees to collect and analyze samples
- Will go beyond sampling to include interviewing children and parents, assessing asthma stressors in homes, etc.
- Focus on allergens first in pilot study; real study will combine all aspects
- Proposals in progress
- Everyone can help identify resources and suitable funding sources

**5) Funding for the position of Executive Director and Staff (Dr. Don Torok)**

- Framework and committed members have been identified
- Need seed funding to source Executive Director, who will essentially get organization off the ground
- Coalition should have strong infrastructure, i.e. sends minutes, organizing committees and board members, etc.
- 501c3 should be established by attorney; Mr. Cuddihy will approach attorney on American Lung Association's board of director
- Help identify problem and consistency in data collection
- Share consistent information
- Create asthma clearinghouse for world to obtain information regarding asthma
- Identify leaders in community committed to asthma research and prevention, i.e. Bonicani family
- American Lung Association has annual Asthma Walk which may be potential

funding/awareness source

**6) Temporary Location (Andrew Cuddihy)**

- Identify temporary location- American Lung Association has facility, Barry has facility
- Need to identify how many people will be present- 50 to 60 people
- When should meeting be held with partners?
- May is asthma awareness month
- Tuesday, May 6 is World Asthma Day
- Target date for larger community meeting, will the consortium be ready by May?
- Envision getting everyone together, sharing problem, our vision, goals and objectives for solving that problem
- Have concrete ways established to solve the problem
- Create interest and involvement in partners

**7) Draft of Website (Dr. Don Torok)**

- Website should be clearinghouse to download asthma information or direct people to proper organizations
- Need to decide on acronym
- Southeast Florida Asthma Coalition
- Southeastfloridaasthma.org

**8) Application for 501c3 status (previously discussed, item 5)**

**9) Student volunteers**

- Florida Atlantic University (FAU)
- Florida International University (FIU)- Center for Leadership in Pediatric Nursing requires masters students to volunteer and gain leadership experience
- Volunteers can help with various tasks, including parent and child interviews

• **Next meeting: Friday, March 7, 2008 11:00am-1:00pm**