

1) Introductions/Attendees (Andrew Cuddihy)

Andrew Cuddihy- American Lung Association

Heather Montoya- American Lung Association

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

Program

Erskine Clerjeune- Barry University

Sandy Lobar- Florida International University

Phillippa Turner- Broward County Health Department (representing

Elaine Jordan)

Denise Robinette- Healthy Living Foundation

Mike Melchior- FCEHA

Dr. Janvier Gasana- FCEHA, Florida International University

Dr. Kunjana Mavunda – Private practice, Pediatric pulmonologist

Curtis Roberson –EOFHC- asthma educator

Mercedes Escalante- EOFHC-asthma educator

Beatriz Lastra –EOFHC- asthma educator

Georgette Clervo – EOFHC

Armando Chamorro – CIH

Maureen O’Keefe – School Board of Broward County

Daniel Weigering – Florida International University

Shiryn Sukhram- Florida International University

Avinash Sukhram- Florida International University

Betty Fitzpatrick – Palm Beach City Health Dept-School Health

Judith Duclot – HCN

2) Presentation by Dr. Mavunda

- Dr. Mavunda has worked as a pediatric pulmonologist in Dade County for over 20 years. She has tried many programs in the community with mixed success and says that most efforts need coordination.
- Asthma in Miami-Dade County
 - With a grant to study the incidence of asthma, the study looked at cases south of Flagler Street
 - Pharmaceutical companies are coming up with new medications, which can be a problem for patients’ understanding
 - Hospital Rates-environmental factors may be affecting rates
 - South Dade – use of pesticides and fertilizers on farms, increased incidence
 - Overtown – population more concentrated; old homes and old carpeting
 - Overall, hospitalizations are decreasing as well as

- the average length of stay
- Mortality rates remain constant
- Any death or hospitalization is a failure of asthma management
- Children tend to be hospitalized more frequently than adults
- Non-hispanic blacks tend to have higher morbidity rates than other groups
- Women tend to be sicker, and also have an increased mortality rate
- Family history is very important in determining asthma risk
- Asthma Triggers
 - Dust and mold are the major sources of exacerbation
 - Chemicals and fumes
 - Many young children have heavy perfumes used on them
 - Increases risk of developing asthma
 - Occupational asthma – hair and nail salon workers, painters
 - Change in weather
 - S. FL. Has humidity and temperature swings
 - Mattress and Pillow – where dust mites live
 - Can be remedied with plastic covers
 - When the environment is unable to be changed, the asthma rates will not decrease, regardless of how much medication they are taking.
- South Florida is not too affected by seasonal changes
- 5.8% of asthmatics use the emergency department as primary management
- Many patients do not understand the importance of preventive maintenance. So they wait until they or the child is really sick and go to the ER.
- Many patients want to learn
 - 42% want to learn proper medication use
 - 60% want general knowledge about asthma
- Having multiple care providers = different medications and lack of proper education on use
- Community educators should promote the flu vaccine
- When using a metered dose inhaler, always use a spacer
- Nebulizer – should be reserved for true asthma attacks

- All children should receive a pulmonary function test
 - Barrier to testing – resources of clinic to perform test and education to patients about the test
 - Often, insurance does not require authorization for test, which tells us the importance
 - Could help show the reality of asthma on lung function
 - Often in schools, kids are educated about asthma, but parents are not
- Discussions from members:
 - Raquel Siegel – the pulmonary function test can show kids, teachers, and parents the effect of asthma
 - Denise Robinette – schools are not using asthma friendly products for painting and floor maintenance, should make better product choices
 - Maureen O’Keefe – next meeting will bring information regarding information on the public school plans regarding product choice and asthma considerations

3) By-Laws Adoption

- Motion to adopt by-laws – Sandra Lobar
- Second to adopt by-laws – Raquel Siegel
- Vote – motion carries unanimously

4) Position of Interim Executive Director

- Dr. Janvier Gasana proposes that Michael Melchior be considered for the position due to his involvement with all aspects of the consortium to this point
 - Motion to accept Michael Melchior as Interim Executive Director – Philippa Turner
 - Second to accept Michael Melchior as Interim Executive Director – Armando Chamorro
 - Vote – motion carries unanimously
- Sandy Lobar requests clarification of “funding”
 - Dr. Gasana responds that the consortium will go after small grants and have cash on hand to purchase supplies necessary for those in the community involved in education projects

5) Election of Board Members

- Chairman – Dr. Janvier Gasana
- Vice-Chairman – Andrew Cuddihy
- Treasurer – Dr. Donald Torok
- Secretary – Heather Montoya
- Chairs of Committees
 - School Health – Philippa Turner and Maureen O’Keefe
 - Asthma Diagnosis and Management – Michael Belcon, MD
 - Community and Advocacy – Denise Robinette
 - Research and Advisory – Dr. Sandra Lobar
- Motion to elect Board – Elizabeth Fitzpatrick
- Second to elect Board – Curtis Robison
- Vote – motion carries unanimously
- Appointed Advisors
 - Tim Patton (Barry University - Fundraising & Recruitment Student Volunteers)
 - William Brookman (Monroe County - Health Department)
 - Karen Weller (Miami Dade County – Health Department)
 - Betty Fitzpatrick (Palm Beach – Health Department School Health)
 - Racquel V. Siegel, MSN ARNP, Nurse Educator - School Health Program - Health Care District of Palm Beach County)
 - Dr. Kunjana Mavunda (Pulmonology / Epidemiology – Asthma Treatment /Management)
 - Armando Chamorro, CIH (CIHES – Research Triggers of Asthma)
 - Georgette Clervoies (EOFHC/Urban League - Pediatric Asthma)
 - Judith Duclot (HCN – Programs & Community Initiatives)

6) World Asthma Day Event/Meeting

- Tuesday, May 6th from 11 to 1@ Anne Kolb Nature Center
- Emphasize that the consortium is shared by the community and not representing a single part
- Heather Montoya
 - Tentative Agenda, 11am – 1pm
 - Introduction by Dr. Janvier Gasana, 10 min.
 - Vision, Mission, Goals discussion – handout and PowerPoint
 - Committee description and Sign-up
 - Catered Lunch
 - Keynote Speaker – Dr. Baxley
 - New clinical guidelines for asthma

management and treatment

- Assign tasks to committees
- Media
 - Press release in Miami Herald, Sun Sentinel, Palm Beach Post, Monroe County Newspaper
 - Radio and TV
 - Sandy Lobar recommend Mary Sudasasi with FIU media relations
 - Post event on EPA website
- Activity towards end of meeting
 - Speech by a family who lost their child to asthma

7) Update on Incorporation and 501(C)(3) status – Mike Melchior

- The consortium is not incorporated as: South Florida Asthma, Inc.
- 501(C)(3) application is now complete with the election of the board and will be submitted to the IRS next week

8) Use of student volunteers – Dr. Janvier Gasana

- Students can be used to create visual aids
- Current meta-analysis project
 - Will help give the consortium credibility by allowing papers to be published regarding many aspects of asthma
 - Future goal of the consortium is to have all projects look at the same data rather than each one analyze something different and thereby lack comparability

9) Other suggestions at close of meeting

- Maureen O’Keefe
 - Suggests that the consortium have a newsletter to promote itself
 - Other suggestions include:
 - Email, blog, website posting
 - Announcement that Broward County has received \$218K to educate on asthma
 - Primary goal – 24 schools, increase to 48 eventually
 - Have a DVD on asthma management in each school
 - Expand Open Airways program to middle and high schools
- Sandra Lobar

- Severe budget cuts may affect funding efforts
 - Children's Medical Services will lose \$1 million
- Andrew Cuddihy
 - Request to inform others that the American Lung Association (ALA) is now accepting applications for children with asthma to attend Boggy Creek Camp for 1 week, expenses covered by ALA