



The Asthma COALITION Update

Spring/Summer 2008

Asthma Summit Wrap up

The 2008 North Carolina Asthma Summit was held on April 17 at the Hawthorne Inn and Conference Center in Winston-Salem. Sponsored by the Asthma Alliance of North Carolina (AANC), this event attracted nearly 200 participants from across the state. The Summit featured a keynote address on the recently released *Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma* (EPR-3). The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Stuart Stoloff, Clinical Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and member of the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program's Expert Panels 2 and 3 for the *Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Asthma*.

Afternoon breakout sessions included the following topics: Asthma and Climate Change; The American Lung Association's Open Airways Program; Asthma Devices and Spirometry; Medicaid and Community Care; The NAECEB

Exam to Become a Certified Asthma Educator: Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why?; Environmental Allergens; Asthma and Obesity; Integrated Pest Management; Tobacco Use Quitline and Other Smoke-Free Community Resources; Asthma Coalition Forum; and Including Asthma in Your Early Childhood Initiatives.

As always, the Summit provided an excellent opportunity for asthma champions throughout our state to showcase success stories and share strategies for dealing with asthma in our communities. Presentations and/or handouts from presenters are available on the N.C. Asthma Program's AANC page at www.asthma.ncdhhs.gov. Please contact Caroline at (919) 707-5209, or Caroline.Chappell@ncmail.net, with any questions regarding the Summit or for additional speaker information. ❖

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Enhancing Local Asthma Efforts Project

The N.C. Asthma Program has made grant awards to six local health departments/health districts across the state to be leaders for their counties and their respective regions on enhancing the efforts of local asthma coalitions and community work groups. These regional leads are: Albemarle Regional Health Services, Caldwell County Health Department, Cleveland County Health Department, Davidson County Health Department, Harnett County Health Department, and New Hanover County Health Department. These awards have been made to local health departments/health districts in an effort to replicate and establish successful asthma-related interventions from across North Carolina and to afford communities the opportunity to engage in evidence-based interventions designed to reduce the burden of asthma.

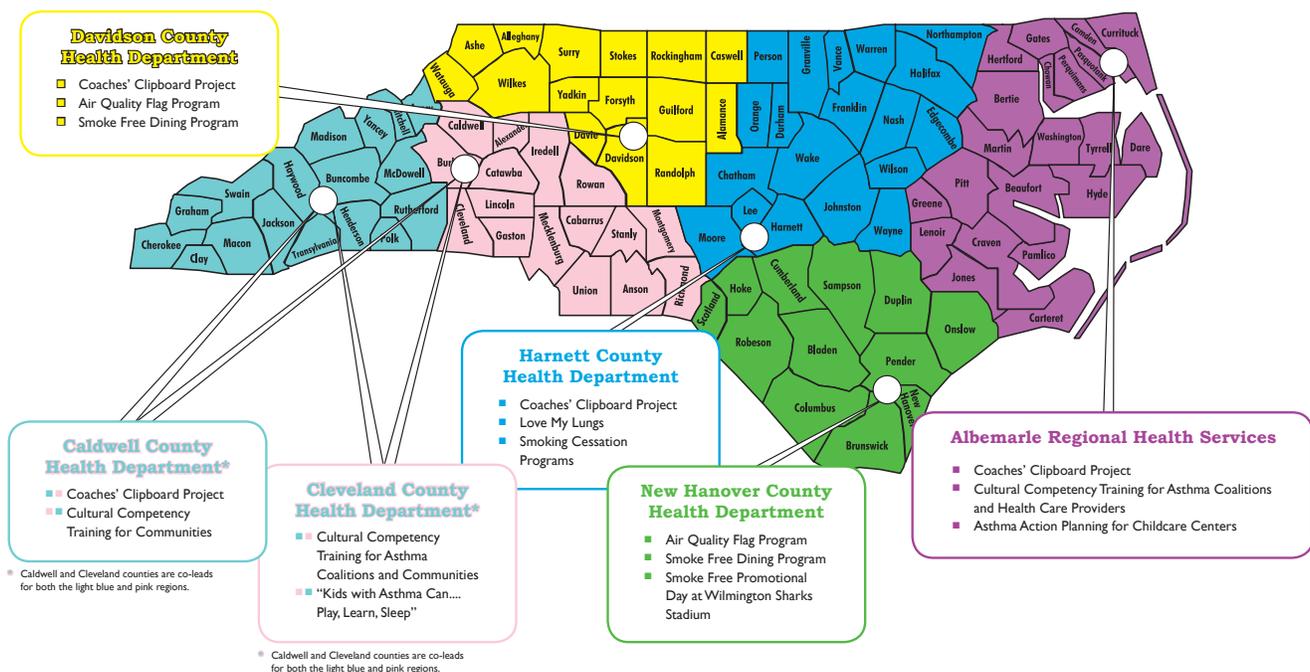
Our grantees have chosen from among the following projects for implementation in their respective communities: the Air Quality Flag Program, the Coaches' Clipboard Program, various smoke-free initiatives, "Kids with Asthma Can...Play, Learn, Sleep," and cultural competency for communities. The map below

shows each region, along with each lead county's chosen activities.

The Air Quality Flag Program is an educational program based upon the Air Quality Index and daily air quality forecasts. Flags are flown at schools, YMCAs, recreational facilities, health departments, fire departments, and in other public places based upon each particular day's air quality forecast. The Coaches' Clipboard Project is designed for coaches, physical education teachers, and other athletic professionals who work with active children who have asthma. It features an online interactive tool originally designed by the Minnesota and Utah departments of health, a clipboard detailing symptoms of an asthma episode and "what to do" in case of an asthma episode, and other regionally developed resources. Other innovative programs are designed by region.

For additional information about the Enhancing Local Asthma Efforts Project, including how you can participate and link up with your regional coordinator, please contact Caroline at Caroline.Chappell@ncmail.net, or (919) 707-5209. ❖

Enhancing Local Asthma Efforts Project Regions



SPOTLIGHT ON ...

Wake County

Asthma Coalition

The Wake County Asthma Coalition (WCAC) is up and running! On Saturday, May 10, WCAC hosted a “kick off” family picnic event at Pullen Park in Raleigh. The exciting tropical-themed event featured a keynote address by WRAL TV meteorologist Greg Fishel, who relayed his personal experiences growing up with asthma and how asthma can be affected by various weather conditions. The day also included an address from Caroline Chappell of the North Carolina Asthma Program and several compelling personal stories from families and children who are successfully managing their asthma. Fun asthma-related activities and events were also provided for children who attended the picnic. The event was so successful that WCAC plans to repeat the family picnic event next May!

In conjunction with Camp Oak Hill in Oxford, N.C., WCAC will help administer Camp Challenge this summer. Camp Challenge is specially designed for children age 7-17 living with asthma or diabetes. The camp is staffed with physicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists for the entire week, and camper activities include swimming, canoeing, horseback riding, archery and a climbing wall. Activities are designed to provide asthma education, self esteem development, and management techniques.



Willie Mae McMillan (left) checks in with Wake County Asthma Coalition representatives Michelle McKee and Sharon Caudle.

The coalition also has the unique opportunity to participate in the National Basketball Association’s (NBA) summer Junior NBA/ Junior WNBA camp. Merck is helping to sponsor this activity in an effort to promote a healthy, active lifestyle for children with asthma. The camp also includes an education component for parents of campers.

The Wake County Asthma Coalition also plans to sponsor asthma-related initiatives such as the Air Quality Flag Program and the Coaches’ Clipboard Program in the coming months. To become involved with the Wake County Coalition, or for more information, please contact Debbie Godwin at dgodwin@wakemed.org, or (919) 350-7979. ❖

Asthma Champion Award

During the 2008 NC Asthma Summit, the 2nd Annual Asthma Champion Award was presented to Gayle Olson of Albemarle Regional Health Services and the Albemarle Pediatric Asthma Coalition. Created in 2007 to recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals dedicated to improving the lives of people with asthma in North Carolina, the award was presented to Gayle by Caroline Chappell on behalf of the Summit Planning Committee.



Gayle Olson (right) with Dr. Margaret Donohoe, Chair of the Albemarle Pediatric Asthma Coalition.

Recipients of this award demonstrate a strong commitment to asthma initiatives in their community and/or across the state and to reducing the burden of asthma in North Carolina. Gayle led efforts in her community and across her region for coalition strategic planning and establishing a medications agreement for indigent families through the Community Care Clinic and local private specialists.

She has organized support groups for children, adolescents, and families living with asthma in her region; planned and coordinated regional asthma camps for the past 4 years; led efforts to implement a consistent regional Asthma Action Plan across seven counties' school districts; and is currently leading efforts to develop a child care asthma action plan for her region.

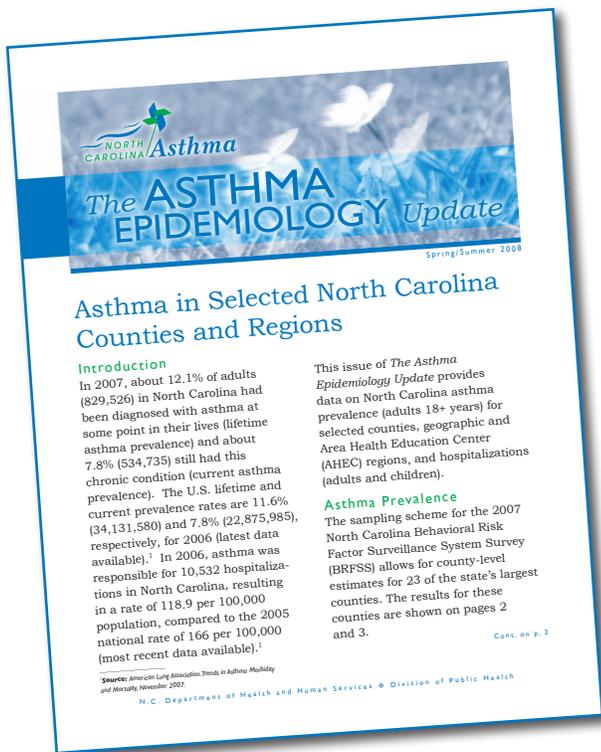
Congratulations to Gayle on being named the 2008 Asthma Champion! The Summit Planning Committee will begin accepting nominations for the 2009 Asthma Champion Award early next year! ❖

The Coalition Corner

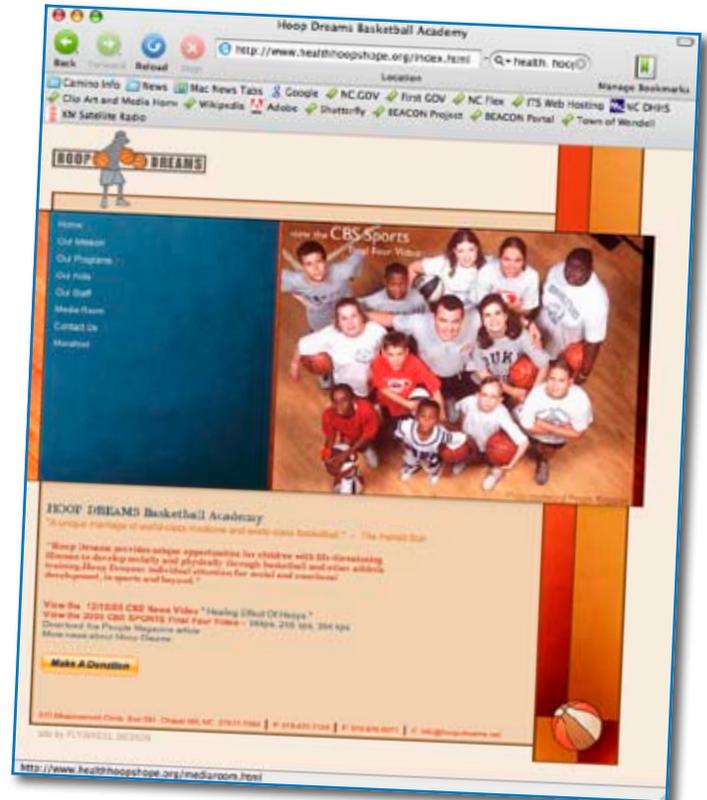
In late spring 2008, the N.C. Asthma Program launched a new feature on our web site called the *Coalition Corner*. The *Coalition Corner* is designed to allow local asthma coalitions and community workgroups the opportunity to post and share information regarding coming events and activities. Our first postings were primarily related to Asthma Awareness Month. Please take a few moments to view these exciting events and opportunities at www.asthma.ncdhhs.gov/coalitioncorner.htm, and please feel free to share your own for posting(s) for this site! All submissions should be emailed to Caroline at Caroline.Chappell@ncmail.net prior to the 27th of each month, to allow for posting of the following month's activities. Please do not hesitate to contact Caroline with any questions. We look forward to receiving your information for posting (don't forget to share your asthma camp information with us)! Please feel free to share with your colleagues and friends. The format for submission is detailed below:

- County/Coalition Name
- Title of Event
- Location – including address
- Date (including day of the week and time)
- Brief description of the event (3-4 lines)
- Web address, if available
- Target audience
- Contact information (name, phone number, email address) ❖

Summer 2008 Asthma Epidemiology Update Features County-Level Data



Message from Health, Hoops, and Hope



The third issue of the N.C. Asthma Program's *The Asthma Epidemiology Update* will be published and posted on the Program's website (www.asthma.ncdhhs.gov) in summer 2008. It will include a listing of lifetime and current prevalence rates and population estimates for the year 2007 for 23 counties, three geographic regions, and nine Area Health Education Centers (AHEC). This issue will also contain the number of, and age-specific crude rate for, hospitalizations due to asthma in 2006 for all counties in North Carolina. As always, the Asthma Program welcomes your comments and suggestions on this issue and for future topics (please contact Winston Liao at (919) 707-5210 or Winston.Liao@ncmail.net).

Health, Hoops and Hope (H3) is a non-profit Triangle-wide organization that provides unique opportunities for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses to develop socially and physically through free athletic instruction and other social and recreational activities. Activities are year-round, are offered for siblings, and are free of charge. To find out more information on how you can participate or to sign up for our monthly calendar, please contact info@hoop-dreams.net.

Don't Forget - Send us Your Stories, and Tell Us What You Think!

The *Coalition Update* is released quarterly, and we want to share your coalition or work group's stories and activities in future issues. Please let us know about the exciting asthma-related events and activities in your community! We also welcome your feedback and ideas on items that you would like to see in future issues. Send news, updates, and ideas to Caroline Chappell at Caroline.Chappell@ncmail.net. ❖



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