

KAP News

Newsletter of the Kentucky Asthma Partnership

KAP to meet in Lexington July 23

The Kentucky Asthma Partnership will meet from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 23 at the Plantory, 501 West Sixth Street in Lexington.

The meeting will feature a presentation on occupational asthma with an emphasis on agriculture by Dr. Deborah Reed, Distinguished Service Professor and Good Samaritan Endowed Chair at the University of Kentucky College of Nursing.

Dr. Julia Richardson, KAP chair, will also provide a presentation on encouraging the use of National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute EPR-3 guidelines in the clinical management of asthma.

Kentucky Asthma Program changes name

Pam Spradling, program manager for the Kentucky Asthma Program at the Kentucky Department for Public Health, recently announced that effective immediately the program will be known as the Kentucky Comprehensive Asthma Management Program or KCAMP.

"In the past we had some confusion between the Kentucky Asthma Program and the Kentucky Asthma Partnership because the acronym for both is the same," Spradling said. "This new name is representative of the work the program does and indicates alignment with the comprehensive approach to asthma management recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control."

The KCAMP will complete a five-year CDC funding cycle in August 2014. Spradling said program staff applied for new CDC funding in May and she is hopeful that Kentucky will be selected to continue this work. The program also receives state support.

Spradling said staff will be working to brand the program, including developing a new logo and other materials, over the next few months.

Kentucky observes Asthma Awareness Month



Gov. Steve Beshear signed a proclamation declaring May 2014 as Asthma Awareness Month in Kentucky. Local health departments and other organizations across the state conducted activities designed to increase awareness of asthma. Here, County Judge-Executive Barty Bullock, signs a proclamation for Pulaski County. Also pictured are Rachel Broughton, left, Pulaski County school nurse supervisor, and Beth Thomas, right, nurse administrator at Lake Cumberland District Health Department.

KET to produce Health Three60 on asthma



Kentucky Educational Television has announced it will produce a Health Three60 program on asthma in September. The Health Three60 series explores important health issues in Kentucky from a fresh perspective. The programs present three sides of an issue in 60 minutes through a mix of studio and documentary segments.

Dr. Julia Richerson, chair of the Kentucky Asthma Partnership, said, "We are so excited KET is planning on featuring asthma on an upcoming program. KAP will be closely involved in helping KET develop the program, and we hope this opportunity will bring increased awareness to Kentuckians about the impact of asthma on quality and life and help them better understand how to help people breathe easier."

Other Health Three60 programs have covered such issues as children's health, bullying, mental health, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and prescription drug abuse. The Health Three60 series is a KET production funded in part by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

Summer 2014 Edition

Healthy Homes courses offered for CHWs

The Healthy Homes Training Center at Ashland/Boyd County Health Department recently provided the “Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers” training at Montgomery County Health Department. 35 CHWs were trained during the course. An additional Healthy Homes course for CHWs was held at the Russell County Health Department on July 9. An “Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners” course was held at Lake Cumberland District Health Department July 10-11.



KAP elects new officers

The Kentucky Asthma Partnership elected new officers during its March 2014 meeting. Dr. Julia Richerson was once again named chair of the KAP and Dr. Douglas Lotz was named vice-chair. Pam Spradling will serve as secretary.

Dr. Richerson, a native of Mayfield, attended Transylvania University and the University of Kentucky School of Medicine. She completed her residency in pediatrics at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. She is a pediatrician with Family Health Centers in Louisville. She previously served as a pediatrician and medical director for White House Clinic in McKee. She serves on the board of the Kentucky Primary Care Association, Mama2Mama and Little Ears Hearing Center and the executive committee of the Kentucky chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She also chairs the Child Health Committee of Passport Health Plan and is on community faculty at both the UK and U of L Colleges of Medicine. She has served as the KAP co-chair since 2011, and prior to that served on the KAP Executive Committee. She lives in Louisville with her husband and daughter.

Dr. Lotz earned his medical doctorate at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and completed his residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati/Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. He completed a fellowship in allergy and immunology at St. Louis University School of Medicine and is currently a physician at Family Allergy & Asthma in Louisville. He also serves as a clinical instructor in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Allergy and Immunology at the U of L School of Medicine. Dr. Lotz is a member of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the current president of the Greater Louisville Allergy Society. He is also a fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the American College of Physicians.

Spradling has been the program manager for the Kentucky Comprehensive Asthma Management Program since June 2013. She previously served as the health education director at Montgomery County Health Department and the public education coordinator for KDPH’s Kentucky Women’s Cancer Screening Program. A native of Harrodsburg, she holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Eastern Kentucky University and a master’s degree in communication from Morehead State University. Before her career in public health, she was a journalist and an educator. She has been an instructor in the Kentucky Community and Technical College system for 18 years. She lives in Montgomery County with her husband and three daughters.



Managing asthma in the classroom

Asthma is a leading cause of school absenteeism, but with training and resources, parents, teachers, coaches, and school personnel can help children manage asthma while at school.

The following is a checklist for parents:

- *Get a checkup for your child before school starts and schedule a flu shot
- *Know your child’s asthma triggers and work with teachers to eliminate them.
- *Develop an asthma action plan with your child’s doctor before school begins and share the plan with school staff.
- *Ensure that your child has access to medications and any devices to administer these medications at school.

School administrators and teachers can also help students manage asthma. The following is a checklist for school personnel:

- *Identify students with asthma.
- *Allow students access to their inhalers.
- *Create protocols for asthma episodes.
- *Identify and reduce asthma triggers.
- *Educate personnel, parents and students.
- *Create a policy that prohibits buses and other vehicles from idling near the school.
- *Enforce no-smoking policies on school grounds and at all school functions.
- *Avoid classroom pets with fur or feathers.
- *Keep classrooms and other school areas clean in order to prevent pests.
- *Eliminate sources of moisture.
- *Close windows when pollen level is high.
- *Encourage school staff to avoid wearing strong perfumes, cologne and hair spray.
- *Avoid the use of chemicals including paints, adhesives and cleaning products.

Resources for parents and teachers:

Allergy and Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics
www.aanma.org

American Lung Association
www.lungusa.org

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
www.aafa.org

Creating Asthma Friendly Schools in Kentucky, A Resource Guide
<http://chfs.ky.gov>

Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Kit
www.epa.gov

Asthma 1-2-3 facilitator training
<http://www.midlandlung.org>