

# National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition



## Presenters

- Patricia Adkins, Safe Kids Worldwide
- Melanie Hudson, Children's Health Forum
- Ruth Lindberg, National Center for Healthy Housing
- Jane Malone, National Center for Healthy Housing
- Amy McLean Salls, National Center for Healthy Housing

## Presentation Goals

- Learn about the Coalition and ways to become involved
- Identify opportunities to participate in strengthening public policy
- Gather new insights into inducing health care payers to support environmental assessments and hazard remediation
- Gain knowledge of current federal legislation and emerging approaches to healthy housing standards

# History of the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition





# **National Healthy Housing Policy Summit – May 7, 2009**

## **Summit Goals:**

- Produce and release a viable National Housing Action Plan with practical, concrete steps that can be used to promote broad, meaningful changes in housing design, construction, operation, maintenance, and rehab
- Gain organizational commitments to specific action steps

# Why Was a National Meeting Needed?

- Imminent comprehensive healthy housing bill
- State and local healthy housing programs needed support
- Community-based groups wanted action
- No comprehensive strategy for national healthy homes movement
- No national discussion to date among the diversity of disciplines

# Challenges To Developing a Comprehensive Strategy

- Lack of understanding of key elements
- Lack of wide dissemination of information, assessment tools and best practices
- Limited training, education, and public outreach opportunities
- Limited funding and jurisdictional disputes

# Who Sponsored and Supported the Meeting?



THE KRESGE FOUNDATION



National Center for  
Healthy Housing



American Public Health Association



LIVING CITIES  
INNOVATE ▶ INVEST ▶ LEAD



# Summit Attendees

Key stakeholders and experts in:

- Housing, public health and environmental policy
- Housing construction, codes, rehabilitation
- Housing management, maintenance, inspection and enforcement
- Housing training, technical assistance and financing
- Green housing, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and environmental health
- Tenant rights, homeownership, community organizing

## Summit Outcome

- National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition established in July 2009
- Broad, voluntary, non-dues coalition of organizations working to improve housing conditions nationwide, especially for low-income families, through education and outreach to key national stakeholders and federal public decision-makers

# Coalition Governance Structure

- Bylaws
- Steering Committee
- Workgroups
  - National Collaboration/Partnership-Building
  - Federal Legislative/Executive Branch
  - Healthy Homes Standard
- Priorities and Agenda Set

# Coalition Milestones

- Membership grew from 9 organizational partners to 101 organizations and 24 individuals
- First Annual Coalition Meeting held in May 2010 in Washington, DC with over 90 attendees
  - Hill briefings featuring local and state programs
  - Policy salons on codes, financing and energy
  - Keynote speaker
  - Networking opportunities

# Current Steering Committee Members

- American Public Health Association
- American Society of Home Inspectors
- Baltimore City Health Department
- Children's Health Forum
- Enterprise Community Partners
- Habitat for Humanity International
- Houston Department of Health and Human Services
- Indoor Air Quality Association
- International Code Council
- National Center for Healthy Housing
- National Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning
- National Low Income Housing Coalition
- NeighborWorks America
- Rebuilding Together
- Safe Kids Worldwide
- U.S. Green Building Council

# Factoring the Home Environment into Health Plans: Good Business and Good Government



A POLICY AND PRACTICE REPORT  
LOWELL CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION  
ASTHMA REGIONAL COUNCIL



## Asthma: A Business Case for Employers and Health Care Purchasers

Polly Hoppin, ScD • Laurie Stillman, MMHS • Molly Jacobs, MPH

FEBRUARY 2010



The Lowell Center for Sustainable Production helps to build healthy work environments, thriving communities and viable businesses that support a more sustainable world. The Asthma Regional Council is a coalition of public agencies, NGOs and researchers that brings together the diverse organizational perspectives and resources of health, housing, education and environment to reduce the burden of asthma.

### POLICY REPORT



Health Resources in Action  
*Advancing Public Health and Medical Research*

## Insurance Coverage for Asthma: A New England Gap Analysis



DECEMBER 30, 2010

**Authors: Laurie Stillman, Xin Lu, Kathleen McCabe**

Conducted on behalf of the Asthma Regional Council of New England in collaboration with the CDC-funded New England Asthma Programs of the Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont state health departments. This study was funded by a grant from The Kresge Foundation.

*The authors gratefully acknowledge the editorial assistance provided by Toni Abrams Weintraub, MD, MPH, Health Resources in Action; Betsy Rosenfeld, JD, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Reg. 1 (New England); Polly Hoppin, ScD, University of Massachusetts-Lowell; and Stacey Chacker, Asthma Regional Council at Health Resources in Action.*

# Why Focus on Public Health Care Payers and Employers?

- Chronic disease accounts for 75% of U.S. health care costs
  - Asthma
  - Diabetes
  - Cancer
- Critical tool in addressing income and racial disparities in asthma burden and treatment
- Employment-based insurance covers 2/3 of Americans under age 65

# Asthma: Costs for Health Care Utilization

Health Care Service	Cost
ER Visit	\$691
Hospital stay (adult)	\$9,261
Hospital stay (child)	\$7,987

Source: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

# Impacts on Families and Businesses

- 40,000 people miss work or school every day
- Burden on employees and employers
  - Lost income for families
  - Increases short term disability
  - Absenteeism
  - Reduced performance while ill
- \$5 billion - \$23 billion in lost productivity
- Up to 125 million missed workdays

# Best Practices for Asthma Management

National Asthma Education and Prevention Program Guidelines (NAEPP):

1. Objective measures of lung function
2. Comprehensive pharmacologic therapy
3. Patient education that fosters a partnership
4. Environmental control measures

## Evidence Base

- Asthma Education
  - \$36 saved in costs and lost work days for every \$1 spent
- Environmental Interventions
  - \$28 for each symptom-free day gained

## Gap Analysis Findings

- Few fee-for-service (FFS) Medicaid or commercial plans pay for:
  - Separate individual educational sessions
  - Extended individual educational sessions
  - Group education visits
- Fewer than half offer home-based clinical and environmental assessment services
  - Particularly true for FFS Medicaid plans

## Gap Analysis Findings

- Medicaid payers do not maintain records of asthma severity or control
  - Monitor quality of care provided
  - Target patients who have uncontrolled symptoms
- Few plans (other than Medicaid Managed Care) maintain race and ethnicity statistics
  - Critical for addressing disparate outcomes and treatment

# Public Payer Strategies

- Secure Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement
  - Reduction of environmental triggers in the home
  - Asthma education for self management
- Need comprehensive guidance on use of Medicaid funds
- Use lower-cost and effective providers
  - Nurses
  - Certified asthma educators
  - Community health workers (CHWs)

# Employer Strategies

1. Modify employee insurance benefits and health plans
2. Build on worksite wellness and health promotion programs
3. Ensure the work environment is “asthma-friendly”

## Key Activities and Next Steps

- Asthma Regional Council Payer Symposium
  - November 2010
- Medicaid Cost-Saving Opportunities Letter
  - Advocacy letter: December 2010
  - HHS letter: February 2011
- Continue dialogue and advocacy
  - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - Health insurers
  - Major employers

# Policy Agenda and Efforts



# Purpose

To mainstream healthy homes, we need to:

- Enact and enforce health-based housing standards;
- Expand and target resources for housing maintenance, repair, rehab and retrofit;
- Increase community capacity through training and advocacy;
- Leverage opportunities presented by energy efficiency programs and health care reform.

# Healthy Housing Standards

- Create standards for building materials and indoor exposure.
- Amend the International Code Council (ICC) model housing and building codes to prevent radon exposure in new homes, unsafe renovation work, and moldy building materials.
- Deliver funding for code administration (enactment and enforcement) to fortify local agencies' capacity.

## Healthy Housing Standards (continued)

- Begin the development of minimum federal healthy housing standards.
- Explore requirements at turnover and sale for property owners to meet healthy housing standards and disclose known hazards.
- Support improvements to and industry compliance with EPA's and states' renovation program (RRP).

# Financing Healthy Homes

- Pass Senator Jack Reed's and Congressman Robert Brady's Safe and Healthy Housing Act and Healthy Housing Council Act.
- Fully fund the National Housing Trust Fund and support other mechanisms for financing affordable healthy housing.
- Incorporate housing quality into legislation supporting livable communities and sustainability.

## **Financing Healthy Homes (continued)**

- Encourage Medicaid, private insurer, and other health sector support for healthy homes activities.
- Sustain and expand funding for the HUD's Healthy Homes Program and for CDC's Healthy Homes appropriation to transition local programs to healthy homes.

# Integrating Energy Efficiency and Health

- Incentivize flexible use of categorical funding programs to advance energy, home repair, and health and safety. For example 15% flexibility for, WAP and LHC.
- Incorporate healthy homes recommendations into bills and regulations to advance residential energy efficiency, in Home Star and similar programs.

## What Have We Been Doing?

- Building capacity of Healthy Housing Ambassadors
- Responding to FY 11 funding issues related to HUD; CDC; EPA
- Advocating for FY 12 funding
- Viable legislation
- Exploring legislative briefings and individual meetings
- Setting up meetings with key Administration staff
- RRP advocacy

# Current Legislation and Mobilizing Efforts



# Current Legislation

- Healthy Housing Council Bill
- FY 2012 Appropriations
- Housing Trust Fund – funding source

# Latest Threats to Prevention

- Weaken Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act
- Challenges to the Renovation Rule
- Merging Lead and Asthma Programs
- Prevention and Public Health Fund
- FY 12 Appropriations

# Emerging Opportunities

- Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011
- Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act
- Community Regeneration, Sustainability, and Innovation Act of 2011
- Federal Radon Strategy
- WAP Guidance

# Mobilizing for Federal Policy Change

- National organization partnerships
- Legislative/administrative work group
- Legislative Action Center
  - Alerts w/messaging to key policymakers
  - Bill and vote tracking

# Grassroots Network



# Mobilizing Local Policy Change

- Grassroots advocacy sub-grants for CBOs
- \$15,000 for one year
- Goal: advance local solutions to substandard housing
- Benefits:
  - peer network
  - technical assistance
  - capacity building support
  - national advocacy role
- NCHH will disseminate promising practices in organizing and housing policy

# Policy Change Activities to be Funded

- Create local demand for healthy housing via media outreach, policy advocacy, community meetings, etc.
- Educate policymakers and the public
- Hold public agencies accountable (e.g. enforce codes)
- Create and sustain valuable collaboration between the public and private sectors and within government
- Other methods most appropriate to the local context

# Getting Involved in the Coalition



# Opportunities for Involvement

- Stay informed
  - Email updates
  - Steering Committee meetings
  - Educational opportunities
- Participate in policy advocacy
- Participate in a working groups
- Network and make connections

# Legislative Action Center

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website for the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://capwiz.com/nchh/home/>. The website has a navigation menu with tabs for 'Who We Are', 'What We Do', 'Research', 'Training', 'Policy', and 'Resources'. The 'Policy' tab is selected, and the page title is 'Policy'. Below the navigation, there is a banner image of a young child and a house. The main content area is titled 'National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition' and includes a welcome message to the Legislative Action Center. It also features sections for 'Key Votes: Congress' with a ZIP code search box, 'Senate Votes', and 'House Votes'. A sidebar on the right titled 'Learn More' lists various coalition activities and working groups.

**Who We Are** | **What We Do** | **Research** | **Training** | **Policy** | **Resources**

## Policy

Policy > National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

### National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition

Home • Elected Officials • Issues • Election • Media

Welcome to our Legislative Action Center

During the session we will highlight key votes and bills. We will offer a summary of these key bills and votes and tell you our position on the key legislation as well as end-of-session wrap-ups.

**Key Votes: Congress**

Enter ZIP code to see how your reps voted  **GO**

**Senate Votes**

Passed	H.R. 1473 - Full Year Continuing Appropriations for FY 2011	04/14/2011	--
✓=We Supported    ✗=We did not Support    --=No Position			

**House Votes**

Passed	Full-Year Continuing Appropriations for FY 2011	04/14/2011	--
Passed	H.R. 1217 Repealing Public Health/Prevention Fund	04/13/2011	✗
✓=We Supported    ✗=We did not Support    --=No Position			

**Learn More**

- National Policy [+]
- State and Local Policy [+]
- Policy Projects [+]
- State of Healthy Housing [+]
- National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition [-]
- Coalition Members
- Coalition Policy Priorities
- Coalition Meetings
- Collaboration/Partnership-Building Working Group
- Federal Legislative/Exec. Branch Working Group
- Healthy Homes Standard Working Group

<http://capwiz.com/nchh/home/>



# Networking Opportunity

Join us on Tuesday for our awards event  
and reception!

Tuesday, June 21, 2011  
Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel  
1550 Court Place  
Director's Row H

# Membership Information

- Visit our website:
  - <http://www.nchh.org/Policy/National-Safe-and-Healthy-Housing-Coalition.aspx>
- Membership packet
- Contact us:
  - Ruth Lindberg, National Center for Healthy Housing
  - [rlindberg@nchh.org](mailto:rlindberg@nchh.org)

# Questions?



**National Safe and Healthy  
Housing Coalition**

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