



Announcement

November, 2007

48 School Nurses Recognized with Asthma School Nursing Award

Community-based Projects to Address Asthma Care Expand

To recognize the leadership of school nurses in asthma care, the Missouri Asthma Prevention and Control Program, a program of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, recently awarded 48 nurses with the Asthma School Nursing Award.

The recipients serve public and parochial school systems in 31 of Missouri's counties, representing every region of the state.

With \$700 in funding from a mini-grant, each recipient selected a project to address the care of children with asthma in their community. Twenty chose to train sport coaches on asthma signs, symptoms, and management of athletes with asthma; twenty-three elected to partner with parents to assess asthma care needs of elementary and high school students in preparation for back-to-school; two developed policy recommendations for school boards and administrators based on the Center for Disease Control's School Health Index; three conducted indoor environmental assessments at the homes of children.

Vickie Pratt, RN of Lee Hunter Elementary in Sikeston conducted seven in home environmental assessments. She said the program was a "positive way to build relationships with parents/students. It helps parents to realize we really do care about our students." At follow up, approximately one-half of the families Ms. Pratt worked with changed aspects of their home environment to better manage asthma triggers.

Some of the award recipients like Faith Christeen Conway, RN were also recognized last year. Ms. Conway reported substantial improvements in asthma care outcomes at Kingston K-14 (Washington County) through staff, parent and child education efforts that were supported by the Asthma School Nursing Award mini-grant. During the last academic year, there were no severe attacks requiring 911 assistance and the use of rescue inhalers decreased 23%.

The school nurse is often the first line of health care or the care coordinator for many students. "The Department is pleased to support school nurses across Missouri fulfill their critical role in serving children," said Missouri Asthma Program manager Peggy Gaddy.



About Asthma Here

The Missouri Asthma Program launched *Asthma Here* in 2006 as its community partnering strategy. Funding is provided by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. By promoting best practices for asthma care improvement to community leaders, *Asthma Here* seeks to reduce the severity of asthma in Missouri communities.

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