

NOACA Air Quality Public Advisory Task Force Planning for a Healthy Air Day Celebration

First Preliminary Report December 6, 2005

The NOACA Air Quality Public Advisory Task Force suggested at its initial meeting in May 2005 that a Public Health Forum be planned to help educate Northeast Ohio on the health impacts from Ozone and small Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}). A Work Group was formed to assist NOACA staff in planning the Forum.

Healthy Air Day

After much discussion, the Public Health Forum Work Group agreed that a health forum might not be the most effective activity. The Work Group suggested sponsoring a *Healthy Air Day* instead when a variety of activities could be planned to reach all. The Forum would strive to educate the general public regarding the national and local health impacts of Ozone and PM_{2.5}. The Forum would aim to discuss in “layman’s” terms what types of emissions sources and diseases have been associated with these pollutants and discuss interventions being considered by federal, state and local agencies to reduce these potential health effects. In addition, the Forum would provide information on other factors including indoor air pollutants that can trigger or exacerbate these health affects and discuss how they can intervene at the individual level to help improve the general air quality in Northeast Ohio.

Public Health Forum Work Group

The following individuals have participated as members of a Public Health Forum Work Group:

Dr. Nora Nock, CWRU, Work Group Chair
Dr. David Lang, Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Dr. Kathleen Fagan, Lorain Community Health Partners
Rich Enty, GCRTA
Colin Johnson, Cuyahoga County Board of Health
Linda Kimble, Clean Air Century Campaign
Sharon Martin, League of Women Voters
Caris Post, American Lung Association
David Pauer, formerly Cleveland HealthSpace
Chris Trepal, Earth Day Coalition
JoAnn Uhlik, Greater Cleveland Partnership
Rich Zavoda, Mittal Steel
Dorr Dearborn, UHHS/CWRU

Components of a Healthy Air Day

The promotion of a “healthy air day” allows multiple audiences and venues for public education opportunities.

Potential activities could include:

- A profession health care forum on local health impacts from air pollution
- A documentary on air pollution
- A series of public service announcements
- The development and distribution of air pollution and health impacts written materials
- Development of an air pollution and health exhibit

Participating Air Quality Partners

GCRTA has expressed interest in partnering on a Healthy Air Day, combining it with “Try Transit” Week.

NOACA staff has also spoken with Dr. Lang, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, regarding planning partnerships with the Clinic and the Asthma Coalition. Staff and Dr. Lang also spoke about potential data/speakers for the Forum. Dr. Lang has been corresponding with Dr. Nora Nock, CWRU, regarding data accumulation regarding ozone and PM_{2.5} impacts on sensitive populations.

Staff also suggests actively involving the new “IdeaStream – PBS/NPR partnership” in the planning and development of the Forum with the idea of video taping and replaying the Forum on PBS and public access channels.

Time Frame

Staff also recommends that the Forum be planned to coincide with the kick-off of the next Ozone Action Day (OAD) season in May 2006. A potential date is May 17, 2006. This will allow the planned activities to benefit from the OAD program’s well-established relationships with local media.

Funding

Currently, funding for the Healthy Air Day has not been identified. Staff hopes that planning partners will provide in-kind sponsorship, as well as actual monetary contributions. Staff will be researching grant opportunities to support this effort.

Next Steps

The Public Health Forum Work Group will meet sometime in December 2005 for its second meeting.

Appendix

October 27, 2005, Meeting Summary