

# **NOACA Air Quality Public Advisory Task Force**

## **Public Health Forum Work Group**

### **First Preliminary Report**

**September 28, 2005**

#### **Introduction**

The NOACA Air Quality Public Advisory Task Force established Work Groups for Mobile Sources, Point Sources, Area Sources, Long-Term Planning Strategies, and a Public Health Forum on air pollution. Together, these Work Groups will assist the Task Force in creating recommendations to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) for inclusion in the State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for both ozone and fine particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), thus helping Northeast Ohio to come into attainment for these criteria air pollutants.

The Task Force and the Work Groups together will enable NOACA to assist the region to plan for future growth, to protect the public health, and to comply with federal law.

#### **Public Health Forum Work Group Membership**

The following individuals were identified as potential 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  
Sharon Martin, League of Women Voters  
Chris Trepal, Earth Day Coalition  
Colin Johnson, Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Linda Kimble, Clean Air Century Campaign  
Caris Post, American Lung Association  
David Pauer, formerly Cleveland HealthSpace

#### **Planning Partners**

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<sub>2.5</sub> impacts on sensitive populations.

Staff has explored some potential options for a Public Health Forum with the Cleveland HealthSpace Museum. Other forum venues need to be explored.

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.

### **Forum Focus**

The Forum should strive to educate the general public regarding the health impacts of Ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The public should also understand the emissions sources of each pollutant, while also understanding how to avoid health impacts and how to help reduce emissions of both pollutants.

### **Time Frame**

Staff also recommends that the Forum be planned to coincide with the kick-off of the next Ozone Action Day season in May 2006. This will allow the Forum to benefit from the Program’s well-established relationships with local media.

### **Funding**

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

### **Additional Educational Opportunities**

Staff will also be exploring funding opportunities to establish a permanent Air Quality / Health Impacts display at the HealthSpace museum.