

## **EPR3: A Pediatric Asthma Diagnosis and Management Update**

**Vanessa Marrero, LGSW**  
**Asthma Social Worker**  
**Children's Hospital**  
**Birmingham, AL**

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health  
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

## **Objectives**

- Define pediatric asthma and describe its personal and public impact.
- Describe the diagnosis of pediatric asthma.
- Understand pediatric asthma management and control.
- Understand effective educational approaches.

## **Case Study #1**

- A pair of AA siblings with severe persistent asthma
- Both have numerous school absences
- Both students may fail if school attendance does not improve

## **Next Step**

- Asthma symptoms only occurred at school
- Parents visited school to find the triggers
- Repeated requests by the family to remove triggers were ignored

## **Next Step**

- Letters to the school
- Social worker encouraged mom to file a 504 plan for each child

## **Section 504**

- Section 504 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities
- Section 504 ensures that the child with a disability has equal access to an education. The child may receive accommodations and modifications

### **Results**

- A 504 plan was written for each child
- Asthma exacerbations declined
- School attendance improved
- Both children passed that year and are doing well today

### **Case Study #2**

- 2 year old AAM
- Significant family history for asthma
  - Mother
  - Siblings
  - Cousins
- He was admitted 5 times in his first year of life (2 admissions to the ICU; 1 intubation)

### **Case Study #2**

- Patient is also diagnosed with transverse myelitis
- Single-parent household
- Family has a history of non-compliance

### **Next Step**

- Social worker assessment
- Social worker assisted mom in locating and utilizing community resources

### **In Addition . . .**

- Asthma education
- Family meeting was held
- Home health services

### **Results**

- 100% compliant with medical appointments
- Admitted 1 time
- Limited movement in right leg