Approximately 50 people attended the **May 20 Asthma Management Continuing Education Seminar** that MMAC and AAFA-MI put on for physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, certified asthma educators and other medical professionals. A big thanks to PHP for providing the meal at the event, to MMAC members Tina Reynolds and Irene Gonzalez for coordinating the registration table, Kathleen Slonager for doing the legwork on the speaker and CEUs, and everyone in MMAC who helped promote the event and who attended. It was well attended and not only did participants learn the newest clinical care strategies, but they also learned about resources and partners in the community they could collaborate with in the future.

**ACE (Asthma Control through Education and Environments)** has stopped enrollment because there are only 3 weeks left in the grant, which will be used to close it out. 109 families participated in the program. The target was 125, but the CDC Program Manager for the grant has determined that 109 is a sufficient/satisfactory number for the project and no extension is needed to meet the 125 target. (Courtney Wisinski, MDCH) Great job Courtney Wisinski, Regina Traylor, Tina Brenner, and everyone else who made ACE a great success.

**PHP is now open to discussing how they can cover in-home case management services for asthma, based on the “MATCH” model** ((Managing Asthma Through Case-management in Homes) and would like to hear from Regina Traylor of ICHD Public Health Services and other MMAC members with experience and/or interest in setting up a partnership with PHP for this service. PHP mainly needs to know:

- Which codes are being used to cover these services at Meridian Health Plan
- The amounts Meridian Health Plan is reimbursing for the services
- How to send referrals for the services
- How long the services last (number of visits over what period of time)

Starting with Irene Gonzalez at PHP is the way to go (Irene Gonzalez, PHP) Irene Gonzalez will facilitate the discussion between Regina (and any other MMAC reps) and Linda Dickerson, Quality Director at PHP, who oversees case management and disease management.

Courtney Wisinski reminded the group that there is a toolkit available on the AIM website to help communities make presentations to health plans for setting up MATCH programs: [http://www.getasthmahelp.org/managing-asthma-match.aspx](http://www.getasthmahelp.org/managing-asthma-match.aspx) It seems that the “toolkit” is likely the video located on the site.
Courtney also said that Karen Meyerson from West Michigan is often willing to help make presentations and provide data on the results of the services as well, and Courtney and Jessica can also meet with Regina to find out if there is anything she can do to assist in working out an agreement with PHP.

MATCH website indicates: “Data was collected at the intake, discharge and post-discharge visits, regarding health care utilization, medication, symptom management, and impact on daily activities. Among 132 participants who completed at least 5 months and 6 visits of case management, the percent of people with at least one asthma related inpatient hospitalization in the last 6 months decreased 83% between intake and discharge assessment… The percent of participants with at least one Emergency Department visit for asthma in the last 6 months dropped 60%. The percent of children who missed one or more days of school in the last 6 months due to asthma dropped 58%. The percentage of respondents missing at least one day of work dropped 45% at 6 months post discharge.”

- **MSU has a new Pulmonologist named Marty Herwitz.** Dr. Hennessey knows of him, and that he has worked in pulmonology, allergy care, and immunology over the years. Dr. Hennessey will be attending a welcoming reception for him at MSU’s radiology area and will discuss MMAC with him and encourage him to get involved. (Dr. Hennessey).

  Web info on Dr. Herwitz: Allergist & Immunologist, has 36 years of experience and practices in Pediatrics, Pediatric Pulmonology, Pediatric Allergy & Immunology, Allergy & Immunology, Allergy, and Pulmonary Disease.

- **Brad Van Guilder from Sierra Club recapped information about air pollution in Mid-Michigan,** with Lansing BWL’s Eckert Power Plant being the largest source of air emissions, and as having the most opacity violations (Opacity is a measurement of the amount of light blocked by particulate matter coming from smokestacks. Particulate matter is fine dust and soot that stays close to the plant and concentrates negative air quality and health effects in nearby communities). He offered updates on Sierra Club’s efforts to pin BWL down about the date on which they plan to close the Eckert station, which has been a moving target as of late. Brad also discussed the problem of BWL not using pollution control equipment that is available in some of the plants, siting the cost they would have to incur for using the equipment being “too high”. Sierra Club’s efforts were also highlighted in the media last week: [http://www.lansingcitypulse.com/lansing/article-10394-postponing-king-coalrss-retirement.html](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com/lansing/article-10394-postponing-king-coalrss-retirement.html)