

Tina Vaughn

From: Stephanie Willis [swillis@chccs.k12.nc.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2003 2:49 PM
To: Tina Vaughn
Cc: Ftbatema@aol.com
Subject: Re: FW: follow-up

Dear Tina,

Thank you very much for calling me regarding the concern passed on to you from Flicka Bateman. Our concern was, in no way, a criticism of the Housing department. My assignment from the Orange County Asthma Coalition (OCAC), an umbrella organization of the Orange County Health Department, was simply to figure out why we had never received a response from a letter we sent to the Town of Chapel Hill regarding asthma concerns.

As I told you during our conversation, the OCAC received a small grant to conduct in-home air quality assessments for students with asthma. The results of those assessments, done under the direction of our county and state Environmental Health officers, revealed two major concerns related to increased asthma symptoms: use of window air-conditioning units and in-door venting of clothes dryers. In both situations, there were no violations observed but short-cuts that had been taken in cost and space planning for some housing units. Both types of equipment cause excess moisture, mold, and mildew which, in turn, can and does exacerbate asthma symptoms.

I am greatly relieved to hear that the Town of Chapel Hill has already recognized the health importance of central air-conditioning and will include it in all future renovations and new construction. Indoor venting of clothes dryers, while not a violation with proper use of ventilation kits, does cause increase in household moisture. The OCAC does recommend housing units have enough space to allow for appropriate external ventilation.

Again, my purpose in contacting Flicka Bateman was to see if she had ever heard anything about our letter or recommendations. I feel certain from my conversations with both you and Ms. Bateman that the Town never received our letter. I will report back as assigned to the OCAC. Thank you for taking the time to contact me and to clarify our concerns.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Willis, RN, MPH
Ephesus School Nurse