

# MEETING NOTES

## Local Health Improvement Coalition TOBACCO WORKGROUP

Monday, April 21, 2014, 8:30 am  
Havre de Grace Municipal Building, 711 Pennington Avenue, Havre de Grace

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (Upper Chesapeake Health System)  
Greta Brand (Independent Health Promotion Trainer/Educator)  
Anne Cerruto (Harford County Office on Aging)  
Chuck Johnson (City of Aberdeen)  
Susan Kelly (HCHD, Health Officer)  
Mallory McCloskey (HCHD, Health Policy Analyst)  
Linda Pegram (HCHD PHEd/CRF Tobacco)  
Dorothy Ruff (HCHD, PHEd/CRF Tobacco)  
Patrick Sypolt (City of Havre de Grace)  
Kristie Willats (Upper Chesapeake Health System)  
Bill Wiseman (HCHD, Public Health Education)

### 1. General Business:

- Chairperson, Ms. Bands opened the meeting requesting a review and approval of the minutes of the 02/24/14 LHIC Tobacco Workgroup meeting notes. Members approved the summary as submitted.
- Ms. Bands requested Ms. Pegram provide an update on a new HCHD CRF Tobacco Program “Tobacco Cessation Texting Program” initiative allowing past, current and non-tobacco users to receive both texts and/or email messages in order to support their cessation efforts and to reinforce abstinence from tobacco use. Cessation messages are crafted based on the types of information program participants want to receive. Possible topics for messages include: how to handle tobacco cravings, quick tobacco facts, health benefits of quitting tobacco and the financial costs of tobacco use and will be available to all Harford County residents. There is a planned evaluative component of the initiative and prospective participants may register through the Health Department’s website or through the Tobacco Cessation Specialist. A toolkit to publicize and promote the initiative was expected to be disseminated in the following few days.
- It was announced that there now is a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist, Kathy Harclerode, on the UCHS campus to provide tobacco cessation assistance for employees in support of their no-tobacco use policy. Vickie explained the policy motivates participants but does not require them to quit to benefit from participation. She also indicated gradual improvements have been made to the institution’s policy that prohibit smoking not only on campus, but in areas adjacent to their campus, and that there is movement toward prohibiting smoking by employees in their cars. There also has been discussion regarding prohibiting the hiring of tobacco users and the inclusion of the use of “smokeless” and e-cigarettes among prohibited employee practices.
- Ms. Cerruto reported on Harford County Office of Mental Health community initiatives, including their “The Emerging Face of Aging: Caregiver Conference on Addressing Issues of Health, Mental Health, and Wellness on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at Harford Community College from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Ms. Pegram reported she and Ms. Ruff attended a training conference in Virginia that addressed e-cigarettes from a variety of perspectives. She also reported that the HCHD CRF Tobacco Program had purchased “Addiction Incorporated” (featured in a public event held at the Kaufman Cancer Center) that she hopes will be used extensively in that program’s educational and cessation initiatives.
- This prompted discussion of the Tobacco Workgroup’s draft of a Position Statement or more aptly, “White Paper” on electronic cigarettes, suggested elements of which include the definition of e-cigs, some historical perspective, a rationale/justification of concerns, and recommendations. Copies of the existing document composed by group members were distributed and reviewed, sparking considerable conversation. Members are charged with providing feedback and recommendations for change and inclusion that will be discussed again at the May meeting.
- Following that discussion, Ms. Brand encouraged discussion of “worksite” tobacco policy and the role of the Workgroup in creating awareness, providing education and facilitating change among Harford County’s major employers. It was suggested the Workgroup put together a surveillance/assessment tool we, in conjunction with businesses, could employ in order to get a better sense of how many employees use tobacco products, whether or not official company policies exist with regard to tobacco use, and whether or not they had an interest in organizing employee tobacco cessation programs. Follow-up is slotted for subsequent meetings.
- Ms. Kelly reported that Baltimore County is considering limiting the hours of operation of hookah lounges.
- Mr. Wiseman and Ms. McCloskey reported on separate DHMH initiatives involving more aggressive education and outreach to pregnant smokers and conducting surveys regarding tobacco use in multi-unit housing, for which the local health department will be receiving some funding and will be directly involved.
- Ms. Ruff provided an update on CRF Tobacco Program School and Community educational initiatives and remarked that many of her recent Harford County Public School policy violation referrals are as a result of student e-cig use.

## **2. Project Scope:**

- To facilitate community change through the development of more restrictive County, municipal and workplace tobacco policies
- To raise awareness of tobacco issues as related to personal and community health status
- To stimulate greater interest among Harford County residents, who despite educational and income levels higher than most counties, have higher rates of adult and youth tobacco use.
- To implement smoke-free or tobacco-free policies in multi-unit housing.
- To implement civil enforcement procedures for underage tobacco sales to minors.

## **3. Action Items:**

- Review drafts of civil enforcement legislation and related materials (Ongoing)
- Review draft of electronic cigarette (E-cig) position statement and related materials (Ongoing)

## **4. Next Meeting:**

- 8:30am, May 19, 2014
- Note change of location to the Harford Room of the Upper Chesapeake Upper Medical Center

## **5. Adjournment**

- 10:15am