

# MEETING NOTES

## Local Health Improvement Coalition TOBACCO WORKGROUP

Monday, May 19, 2014, 8:30 am  
Harford Room, Upper Chesapeake Medical Center, Bel Air, MD

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (Upper Chesapeake Health System)  
Sylvia Bryant (Harford County Office on Human Relations)  
Anne Cerruto (Harford County Office on Aging)  
Karen Goodison (Upper Chesapeake Health System)  
Mark Lewis (Upper Chesapeake Health System)  
Mallory McCloskey (HCHD, Health Policy Analyst)  
Laura McIntosh (HCHD, Health Policy Analyst)  
Marlana McKenna (Harford County Government, Office of Sustainability)  
Dr. Russell Moy (HCHD, Deputy Health Officer)  
Susan Twigg (HCHD, CRF Cancer Program Coordinator)  
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 addended to include the name of Kathy Harclerode, the UCHS Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist. Members were invited to introduce themselves for the benefit of Ms. Twigg, HCHD CRF Cancer Program Coordinator, who has joined the Workgroup.
- Ms. Bands announced the primary purpose of the meeting was to review and make recommendations regarding the Tobacco Workgroup Employer/Worksite Survey as well as our position paper / white paper on electronic cigarettes.
- Ms. Pegram who was away on business, completed a draft of the Employer/Worksite survey that was distributed at the meeting by Ms. Bands for discussion. Two questions arose:
  - Would we increase efficiency and response rate by) disseminating the survey electronically via *Survey Monkey*, or would it remain our preference to disseminate personally via interaction with workplace management, as originally discussed. Ms. Klein also suggested the possibility of embedding the survey into LHIC and Healthy Harford newsletters. The membership supported opportunities to convene with workplace management representatives; members will be asked to call upon three (3) companies each for purposes of implementing the survey.
  - Dr. Moy sought clarification from the group as to the specific purpose of the survey (e.g., to promote workplace and employee interest in cessation program enrollment/participation, or to provide technical assistance to workplaces on the topics of tobacco use policy development and implementation or to provide education to workplaces/employers at an organizational level and offer relevant data as applicable to their businesses and employees.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of providing some sort of recognition to workplaces that adopt smoke-free/tobacco-free policies. In addition, the group suggested adding a question to the survey that would gauge employer interest in attending a training conference focused on educational awareness, relevance of policy, benefits of policy and assistance in policy development as relates to employee tobacco use. Mr. Wiseman suggested the possibility of using FY15 CRF Tobacco monies to fund such an endeavor.

- Recommendations were made to revise several aspects of the survey that will be incorporated into another draft, with the intent of finalizing the survey by our July meeting.

- The Workgroup revisited the electronic cigarette white paper, copies of the most recent draft which were distributed at the meeting. There was discussion about how technically-worded the document should be as well as at whom the document was attempting to target, most agreeing that it is directed at the general public. Membership agreed that we should use the strongest language possible and when completed, should serve as the basis for any subsequent dialogue until such time that it is revised.
  - Dr. Moy reiterated the importance of receiving guidance from MD DHMH and ensuring our position is consistent with that of DHMH, while also supporting the position of FDA our paper recommended supporting the FDA' assertions, including:
    - FDA has not evaluated any e-cigarettes for safety or effectiveness.
    - In conducting limited laboratory studies of certain samples, FDA found significant quality issues that indicate that quality control processes used to manufacture these products are substandard or non-existent.
    - FDA has reiterated what is NOT known to date about these products, including but not limited to: the potential risks of e-cigarettes when used as intended; how much nicotine or other potentially harmful chemicals are being inhaled during use; whether there are any benefits associated with using these products; or, whether e-cigarettes may lead young people to try other tobacco products, including conventional cigarettes, which are known to cause disease and lead to premature death.
  - Additional suggestions included:
    - Placing conclusions first with emphasis on clarity of key issues.
    - Incorporating language encouraging the public to treat e-cigs like regular cigarettes until more and more reliable data indicates or proves otherwise.
- Ms. Cerruto ( Harford County Office on Aging) reminded the workgroup about the “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. and distributed an announcement regarding their upcoming “Disabilities Network Outreach Training on Thursday, June 12, 2014 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m at the Edgewood Senior Activity Center in Edgewood.
- Ms. Klein announced a new reconfiguration of the Healthy Harford website on which the community is encouraged to post events.

## **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)
- Revise draft of electronic cigarette (E-cig) position statement and related materials (Ongoing)
- Revise draft of Employer/Worksite Tobacco Survey.

## **4. Next Meeting:**

- 8:30am, June 16, 2014, at the Gunther Hirsch Municipal Building located at 711 Pennington Avenue, Havre de Grace

## **5. Adjournment**

- 10:15am