

MEETING NOTES

Local Health Improvement Coalition TOBACCO WORKGROUP

Monday, March 23, 2015, 8:30 am
Historic Colored High School, 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (UM/UCHS)
Anne Cerruto (HC Office on Aging)
Karen Goodison (UM/UCHS)
Mark Lewis (UM/UCHS)
Mallory McCloskey (HCHD, Health Policy Analyst)
Charles Odhiambo (for Susan Twigg, HCHD)
Richard Slutzky (President, Harford County Council)
Kristie Willats (UM/UCHS)
Bill Wiseman (HCHD, Public Health Education)

- **General Business:**

- Chairperson, Ms. Bands called the meeting to order and members were invited to re-introduce themselves. Copies of the summary of the February 23rd meeting in Havre de Grace were distributed and approved.
- Mr. Wiseman distributed the most recent update received from the UM LRC on the status of tobacco-related legislation in Annapolis and commented briefly on the major issues.
- Relative to the LHIC Tobacco Policy Survey for Harford County Businesses, the list of Harford's leading 40 businesses to which we want to reach out was distributed. Members are to try to obtain survey results for each of the companies they signed-up to contact, before the April meeting if possible.
- Ms. Bands referenced the LHIC presentation on e-cigs to the Aberdeen City Council and inquired whether the Harford County Government's policy prohibiting use of tobacco on County property include e-cigs. A quick search confirmed they are, thanks in large part to the foresight and input of UM LRC Director Kathleen Hoke. She expressed optimism over being able to present before the Havre de Grace City Council in the future.
- Ms. Bands mentioned results of the Harford Community Health Needs Assessment currently were being processed while those results, along with a strategic plan were expected to be made available in June, 2015. She also mentioned most recent data reflect an adult smoking rate of 16.9% in Harford, which remains above the State average.
- Mr. Wiseman announced that the 2015 Robert Wood Johnson national County Health Rankings & Report would soon be available. Rankings will show general stability for Harford in both "Health Factors" and "Health Outcomes" in comparison with last year; however, in the categories of current adult smokers, adult obesity and excessive drinking, Harford's rates were worse than State averages.
- The group engaged in a discussion of health risk among Harford Countians:
 - Mr. Lewis specifically commented on heart disease and stroke,
 - Ms. Goodison spoke to higher rates of pulmonary disease seen at UM/UCHS, although direct comparisons between UCHS and other institutions are difficult to determine.
 - Ms. Bands also commented on asthma rates and the profound effect cigarette smoking has on them.

- The group was reminded that according to SHIP and LHIP data, the leading causes of death in Harford County are, in order, cancer, heart disease and pulmonary disease, each of which is attributable to or influenced by higher tobacco use rates in the county.
 - Ms. Bands also referenced the group's charge to support the transition from criminal to civil enforcement in Harford County of illegal tobacco sales to minors.
 - Mr. Wiseman briefly summarized enforcement initiatives currently required (in FY15) to be implemented under the CRF Tobacco Grant as well as under supplementary Synar Enforcement Grant monies resulting out of the increase in rates of tobacco sales to minors in Maryland above the accepted 20% threshold.
 - Ms. Bands spoke to a meeting planned in April between Council President Slutzky, the attorney for Council, representatives of the Health Department, and herself to rededicate efforts in this direction, where civil enforcement may offer a more efficient, successful and cost effective option to existing criminal enforcement proceedings.
 - A summary of the discussion at that meeting will be presented at the April LHIC Workgroup meeting.
 - After several members participated in the CDC *Vital Signs* webinar entitled "A Breath of Fresh Air: Reducing Second-hand Smoke in Multi Unit Housing" (copies of the PowerPoint of which were made available to the entire Workgroup), it was announced The Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia Smoke-Free Housing Symposium would convene at the Anne Arundel County Medical Center from 8:30a – 4:30p on May 21st. Several members of the Workgroup also plan to attend that conference and subsequently will report back to the group.
 - We heard from Havre de Grace Housing Authority Director, Nikki Biggs, who is interested in using their community facility as a location for smoking cessation classes.
 - Among those suggested to join the Tobacco Workgroup are Dr. Phil from UM/UCHS and Mark Puckett, as a liaison to the Harford County Public School System.
 - Bill Wiseman referred to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids PSA video on the marketing of e-cigs to youth; we will make that available for download to any members of the group who can use it. He also referenced HCHD's recent PHAB national Accreditation making it one of 67 public health agencies out of more than 3,000 nationwide to have achieved this distinction.
 - UM/UCHS staff will receive training on providing Stanford's acclaimed "Chronic Disease Self-Management" classes, to be targeted at caregivers and individuals with chronic disease issues.
- **Action Items:**
 - Review materials regarding civil enforcement legislation in Harford County in order to move this agenda forward for consideration by County Council.
 - Dissemination and compilation of Employer/Worksite Tobacco Survey results.
 - **Next Meeting:**
 - The next meeting is scheduled to be held on April 27th at the Havre de Grace Municipal Building, 711 Pennington Avenue, Havre de Grace.
 - **Adjournment:** 10:00am