

MEETING NOTES

Local Health Improvement Coalition TOBACCO WORKGROUP

Monday, May 18, 2015, 8:30 am
County Government Office Building, 212 S Bond St, Bel Air, MD 21014

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (UM/UCHS)
Greta Brand (Independent Health Promotion Trainer/Educator)
Sylvia Bryant (Harford County Human Relations)
Karen Goodison (UM/UCHS)
Chuck Johnson (City of Aberdeen)
Susan Kelly (HCHD, Health Officer)
Bari Klein (HCHD / UM/UCH Grants Administrator)
Wendy LaRoche (APG Public Health Command)
Mark Lewis (UM/UCHS)
Mallory McCloskey (HCHD, Health Policy Analyst)
Russell Moy (HCHD, Dep. HO)
Charles Odhiambo (for Susan Twigg, HCHD)
Richard Slutzky (President, Harford County Council)
Andrew Tress (Harford County Government)
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 April 27th meeting in Havre de Grace were distributed and approved with a minor correction (to include Ms. Kelly in the meeting between representatives from HCHD, the UM LRC and Harford County Council to discuss conversion from criminal to civil enforcement of illegal tobacco sales to minors). She also reminded the Workgroup about the HUD Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Summit on at the Anne Arundel Medical Center on May 21st.
- Ms. Bands took a few minutes to summarize the purpose and outcome of the last meeting, which was to assess the group's position on efforts to convert from criminal enforcement to civil enforcement of illegal sales of tobacco to those under the age of eighteen. After discussion, members were polled individually and the result was consensus support for doing so and a subcommittee was established for purposes of moving forward. Ms. Bands, Ms. Kelly, Dr. Moy, Mr. Wiseman, and Ms. Brand agreed to serve; others are invited to add themselves to this group.
- Ms. Bands reminded the membership that while much has been accomplished since the formation of the Tobacco Workgroup, particularly regarding raising visibility and awareness, tobacco use remains a problem in Harford. Most notably, the three leading causes of death in the County are directly associated with the risks of tobacco use, which remains higher here than the state average. Members were encouraged to use some meeting time to jot down ideas about additional strategies/activities worthy of Workgroup consideration going forward. Afterward there was discussion.
 - Regarding policy-oriented initiatives, Ms. LaRoche commented there is an APG operational directive to make the Public Health Command and healthcare facilities located on-base "smoke-free." No certainty of how much impact this will have on

County tobacco use rates, but there will be means of identifying employees residing in Harford County.

- Likewise, others supported continued, aggressive initiatives to increase the number of smoke-free/tobacco free venues, especially public venues.
- Ms. Bands mentioned ways that UCHS is addressing employee tobacco use, incentivizing participation in cessation programs and creating separate programs for those having the greatest difficulty “quitting.”
- Ms. Brand emphasized the importance of continuing to promote on-site workplace cessation programs for area employers and exploring different ways to incentivize cessation program participation and “quits” through Tobacco Workgroup (or other) grants derived from fund-raising campaigns.
- Others added the idea of providing public recognition (via advertisement, awards, proclamations, etc.) to area businesses that implement tobacco-free policies.
- Mr. Tress placed emphasis on individual and (employer) group health and life insurance incentives and cost savings. He also related his personal experiences having previously used tobacco and what personal considerations and values motivated his “quit.”
- There was general discussion about increasing the availability, visibility and public accessibility to cessation resources as well as the importance of community collaboration in bringing together as many of those resources as possible.
- Similarly, supporting more aggressive strategies to drive availability of and participation in tobacco cessation programs.
- Substance abuse treatment programs were identified as a specific venue in/through which to introduce more aggressive cessation efforts.
- The suggestion was made to consult area academic and medical institutions (U of M and JHU) relative to collaboration on generating funding opportunities or increasing research initiatives.
- All members were invited to submit their worksheets to Ms. Bands for review and follow-up.
- Ms. Bands reminded the group of the importance of re-visiting the Workgroup’s “Position Paper on Electronic Cigarettes (and Vaping),” since the body of knowledge about this phenomenon has grown considerably since it was composed. Members were instructed to review the piece for discussion at a subsequent meeting.
- **Action Items:**
 - Review materials regarding civil enforcement legislation in Harford County in order to move this agenda forward for consideration by County Council.
 - Review “E-Cigarette Position Paper” for purposes of editing and updating.
- **Next Meeting:**
 - The next meeting is scheduled to be held on July 27th at Historic Colored High School in Bel Air. (Subsequently cancelled in lieu of Criminal to Civil Enforcement Conversion Subcommittee)
- **Adjournment:** 10:10am