

# MEETING NOTES

## Local Health Improvement Coalition TOBACCO WORKGROUP

Monday, September 28, 2015, 8:30 am  
Historic Colored High School, 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (UM/UCHS)  
Karen Goodison (UM/UCHS)  
Susan Kelly (HCHD, Health Officer)  
Mallory McCloskey (HCHD, Health Policy Analyst)  
Russell Moy (HCHD, Dep. Health Officer)  
Mark Puckett (Harford County Public Schools)  
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 May 18th meeting at the County Government Office Building were approved as distributed.
- In the context of the Workgroup's decision to annually update our position statement on electronic cigarettes/nicotine delivery systems, reference was made to and hard copies were circulated of two articles authored by the Tobacco Control Legal Consortium (of St. Paul, MN, [www.publichealthlawcenter.org](http://www.publichealthlawcenter.org)) as disseminated by the Atarum Institute ([www.altarum.org](http://www.altarum.org)), a national tobacco use prevention policy "think tank." These are entitled, *Regulating Electronic Cigarettes and Similar Devices* and *Partnerships to Ensure Safe Handling and Disposal of Electronic Smoking Devices*, and previously were emailed to the membership.
- Led by Ms. Bands, the membership next reviewed its broader mission and re-examined its priorities going forward.
  - The first initiative discussed was that of continuing efforts to promote smoke-free multi-unit housing (and in particular, low-income housing), noting the "lack of traction" experienced with the Havre de Grace Housing Authority despite attempts to support that organization. Recirculated second-hand smoke also remains an issue in apartment style condominiums where "shared" ventilation systems exist. Ms. Kelly reminded the group of successes (in Howard County) where residents have been vocal and taken leadership. Ms. Willats suggested this was a matter of timing and persistence. Ms. Kelly also suggested reaching out to Len Parish (Harford County Housing administrator) as a guest or Workgroup member.
  - The Workgroup's initiative to establish local legislation in support of civil (versus "criminal") enforcement remains a priority and has gained considerable momentum as a result of the efforts of Council President Slutzky and County Council attorney, Mr. Kearney. Coach reiterated that, while heroin remains a primary issue, County Council has not lost focus on other health priorities, including tobacco use and electronic nicotine devices. Local legislation is in the final stages of preparation, and we are hopeful that will be preliminarily presented at the next Workgroup Meeting before moving forward formally. Thereafter, Mr. Slutzky and Ms. Kelly will determine the appropriate time to meet with local judiciary in this regard in attempts to gain their support.

- Some discussion followed regarding the possibility of approaching local municipalities if legislation successfully passes in County Council. Mr. Slutzky advised moving one step at a time and stressed the importance of diplomacy in these matters.
- Mark Puckett was welcomed back to the Workgroup and asked for his perspective on school-related issues. Mark referenced continued collaboration with HCHD regarding classroom presentations and the after-school program; he also mentioned other tobacco use (including the increased use of electronic devices) as areas of interest.
- There was some discussion of continued efforts to improve upon implementation of smoke-free outdoor (i.e., public, recreational and entertainment venues) policy. Ms. Kelly indicated that, per her discussions with DHMH representatives, the Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act likely will not be amended to include use of electronic nicotine devices.
- There also was limited discussion, but support of ongoing efforts to engage workplaces in development of tobacco-free policies and support of employee cessation programs.
- Members were charged with reviewing our (year old) white paper for purposes of editing, and some time was spent discussing the apparent need to refresh any/all references to data, where appropriate. Also, because the nature of these products has so significantly changed, it was determined that a broader definition of these devices be included. There was consensus that the informational piece for public consumption (and for general distribution and use) should be restricted to a single page with emphasis keeping that information brief, factual, clear, and easy to understand (in an “infographic” style); Ms. McCloskey will partner with HCHD social media and Communication Specialist, Molly Mraz to review the piece. However, the group entertained the idea of expanding the formal position statement to include those elements previously mentioned.
- There was discussion, given the concentration of membership near Bel Air, to move all future meetings exclusively to Bel Air. There was support of that recommendation and a decision was made that, beginning in January 2016, this would occur.
- Ms. Bands also noted discussions between herself and HCHD administrative representatives regarding a merger of the 15 year-old CRF Tobacco Coalition with the Local Health Improvement Coalition Tobacco Workgroup. The move to do so is logistically supported by the fact that there is considerable (albeit not exclusive) overlap between the respective groups’ active members as well as programmatic agenda. Mr. Wiseman, as CRF Coalition coordinator will address this at the next meeting of that group on October 8<sup>th</sup> and will report back to the Workgroup about those discussions.
- Ms. Bands indicated that the LHIC Tobacco Workgroup membership and distribution list was recently updated and encouraged members to continue to recruit with the objective of further diversifying Workgroup membership.
- Ms. Kelly reminded the membership about the upcoming October 13, 2015 annual meeting of the entire LHIC at Harford Community College from noon until 4:00pm.
- **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.
  - Increase representation and LHIC Tobacco Workgroup membership.
- **Next Meeting:**
  - The next meeting is scheduled to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Council Chambers in Havre de Grace.
- **Adjournment:** 9:50am