

MEETING NOTES

Local Health Improvement Coalition TOBACCO WORKGROUP

Monday, October 26, 2015, 8:30 am

Havre de Grace Municipal Building, 711 Pennington Avenue, Havre de Grace, MD, 21078

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (UM/UCHS)
Sylvia Bryant (Deputy Director, HC Community Services)
Karen Goodison (UM/UCHS)
Susan Kelly (Health Officer, HCHD)
Mallory McCloskey (Health Policy Analyst, HCHD)
Mark Puckett (Harford County Public Schools)
Kristie Willats (UM/UCHS)
Bill Wiseman (Public Health Education, PHED)

• **General Business:**

- Chairperson, Ms. Bands called the meeting to order and members re-introduced themselves. Copies of the summary of the September 28th meeting held in Bel Air were approved as distributed.
- The business of reviewing proposed legislation to convert enforcement of illegal/underage tobacco sales to minors in Harford from “criminal” to “civil” was delayed pending the arrival of Council President Slutzky and Council attorney Mr. Charles Kearney. It subsequently was learned that neither would be able to attend. That topic was tabled until our November meeting. There was, however, some general discussion regarding retail tobacco sales enforcement activities.
- Ms. Bands asked the group’s input regarding holding a December LHIC Tobacco Workgroup meeting. Because the regular meeting date would fall during the holiday season, a decision was made to cancel the December meeting and to reconvene (after our November 23rd meeting) in January.
- Next, the viability of a merger between the LHIC Tobacco Workgroup and the Cigarette Restitution Fund Tobacco Coalition (CRFTC) was addressed. Mr. Wiseman, who currently chairs the CRFTC summarized characteristics, similarities and differences of our respective groups as well as what considerations there were for the proposed merger. Discussion items included Mission and purpose, a historical perspective on the relative functions of each, a comparison of “work product”, as well as logistical issues (including but not limited to: membership rosters, meeting times, dates and frequency, and funding). In doing so, Mr. Wiseman noted the considerable overlap that exists now among both organizational and individual representation on the two groups. Likewise, whereas the single most significant factor was thought to be the compatibility of “purpose” of these entities, and because such similarity exists in this regard between the two groups, there was consensus among LHIC Tobacco Workgroup attendees as to the approval of the merger. It was noted that the CRFTC voted unanimously at their last meeting (on October 8th) in favor of the merger. Therefore, a determination was made to merge the two groups, effective January, 2016.
- Noting there will be some minor obstacles to overcome specific to meeting dates and times that may require some additional flexibility among these consolidated memberships, and for purposes of accessing youth representation (as emphasized by DHMH with local tobacco coalitions), the group entertained discussion regarding future meetings.

- Ms. Kelly suggested holding at least one meeting annually at a school where a Students Against Destructive Decision (SADD) group exists or where a Public Health Education class exists. Since both exist at Bel Air High School, this appears to be a logical choice.
 - It also was noted that meetings held during the summer would accommodate attendance by students who otherwise would be in school.
- Noting our emphasis on LHIC Tobacco Workgroup membership recruitment and that the next meeting is scheduled to be held at the UM UCHS Kaufman Cancer Center in Bel Air, Vickie is hopeful that “Dr. Phil” (Dr. Philip Nivatpumin, MD) will be able to attend.
- The updated and revised copy of our E-Cigarette position paper was discussed. Whereas these devices are more currently referred in the literature as “electronic nicotine delivery systems” or “ENDS” but where they are still more commonly known to the public as “electronic (or e-) cigarettes”, it was agreed that both should be somehow recognized as comparable in our paper. Several other suggestions were made that Vickie will integrate into the formal position paper before disseminating to the entire membership before putting it to a “virtual” vote.
- Ms. Bands mentioned that upon completion of the formal position paper, our next project would be to update and revise the accompanying “consumer” piece.
- Next, there was a discussion of school curriculum (as relates to tobacco education). Mr. Puckett acknowledged that while Harford County Public Schools (as is the case throughout all jurisdictions) must adhere to Maryland Department of Education guidelines, they have some latitude. He noted that the secondary health education curriculum was redesigned within the past eighteen months by Ms. Popiolek (HCPS Curriculum Administrator) and that HCHD School Health Education Specialist, Dottie Ruff was an active participant in that process, along with school health educators.
- Mr. Wiseman asked the Workgroup for their future input on ways to increase tobacco cessation program participation in light of a significant, continuing “drop” in these numbers over the past year. It was suggested that:
 - Information about tobacco cessation programs be included among the resources provided to UM UCHS Chronic Disease Self-Management class participants.
 - Greater emphasis be placed on the “5 A’s” of intervention (ask, advise, assess, assist, and/or arrange) by physicians (primary/family care practitioners and specialists, alike) when seeing clients who use tobacco.
- **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 at 8:30am on November 23th at the Kaufman Cancer Center Street Conference Room on the campus of the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health System in Bel Air.
- **Adjournment:** 10:00am