

MEETING NOTES

CRF Tobacco / LHIC Tobacco Workgroup

Monday, February 22, 2016, 8:30 am
County Government Office Building, 212 S Bond St, Bel Air, MD 21014

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (UM/UCHS)
Capt. W. Michael Crabbs (Harford County Sheriff's Office)
Karen Hensley (Nurse, Guest)
Chuck Johnson (City of Aberdeen)
Charles Kearney (Attorney, Harford County Council)
Susan Kelly (Health Officer, HCHD)
Mallory McCloskey (Health Policy Analyst, HCHD)
Russell Moy, M.D. (Deputy Health Officer, HCHD)
Corp. Brian O'Neil (Harford County Sheriff's Office)
Deborah Payne (UM/UCHS)
Brittany Pettus (Student Representative, Bel Air Middle School)
Mark Puckett (Harford County Public Schools)
Dottie Ruff (HCHD CRF Tobacco Program)
Melissa Sager (UM Legal Resource Center)
Gale Sauer (Aberdeen Proving Ground)
Samantha Sullivan (Student Representative Bel Air High School)
Richard Slutzky (President, Harford County Council)
Bill Wiseman (Public Health Education, HCHD)

General Business:

- Chairperson, Ms. Bands called the meeting to order and members re-introduced themselves. Copies of the summary of the November 23rd meeting held at the Kaufman Center were approved as revised and Ms. Bands announced the agenda. Ms. Bands commended Mr. Puckett's efforts in recruiting students Samantha Sullivan and Brittany Pettus who were in attendance. Ms. Bands likewise commended the youth for attending and for their commitment.
- Ms. Bands, Mr. Slutzky and Mr. Kearney briefly reviewed the work of the Coalition in collaboration with County Council President Slutzky and County attorney Charles Kearney to propose local legislation that would convert enforcement of illegal/underage tobacco sales to minors in Harford from "criminal" to "civil", highlights of which were noted in the summary of the previous meeting. The justifications for civil enforcement also were reviewed. May 10th is the last day for introduction of new legislation before the summer recess because adequate time has to be allowed for a public hearing and a vote.
- Since County legislation cannot impose action on the Health Department as an entity of State government, Ms. Kelly is taking the lead on the process by which to receive approval from the State, by way of MOU and will report on progress at the next meeting.
- This comes at a time when legislation also is being introduced through both houses of the Maryland legislature to allow civil enforcement throughout all jurisdictions statewide, which would preempt the need to do so at a local level. Reports on the status of all health-related legislative proposals is provided to us by Mr. Tillburg (UM LRC). Mr. Wiseman provided an overview on the current status of proposed legislation and those reports will be shared periodically with the membership via email. Aside from the issue of civil enforcement, other primary issues involve:
 - Child resistant ENDS liquid containers
 - Increasing the minimum legal age for tobacco purchase to 21
 - Prohibiting smoking in vehicles with passengers 8 years old and younger
 - Provisions allowing MD Clean Indoor Air exceptions to casinos (Pr. George's County), that would set dangerous precedents going forward

- Mr. Wiseman submitted his semi-annual CRF Tobacco Program to DHMH in January, distributed a summary and reported on cessation, community and school-based educational activity, highlights of which included:
 - More than 696 persons educated on tobacco awareness, in addition to another 218 youth educated on e-cigarette prevention through various community, faith-based and second-hand smoke awareness programs
 - 4 media campaigns
 - Fifty community leaders trained in tobacco awareness
 - Over 5,000 youth educated on tobacco awareness via group presentations to public, private and alternative school students
 - Over 600 parents of pre-K through grade twelve students educated
 - Over 400 school staff educated o tobacco awareness
 - 79 participants in tobacco cessation programs
 - Over 40 persons receiving NRT
- Ms. Bands reviewed UM/UCHS tobacco personnel policies
- Ms. McCloskey distributed copies of the revised Harford County Local Health “Tobacco” Action Plan, feedback on which was requested by December 7th. The Plan incorporates sections on ENDS awareness, tobacco enforcement opportunities, youth community and workplace tobacco awareness and support. She also reported on HUD’s federal directive to public housing authorities to go smoke-free. It was decided we should contact Harford County Housing & Community Development Director, Len Parrish, and ask him to join/convene with the Coalition.
- Mr. Wiseman responded to Ms. Bands inquiry at a previous meeting (as to whether, since the merger, CRF tobacco grant monies could be used to support the activities of the combined group) in the affirmative, conditional upon direct relevance to the CRF Workplan.
- Mr. Slutzky asked if there was any information readily available that would account for higher tobacco use rates in Harford County. After conceding there was not, group discussion centered on ways to go about obtaining this information. Some options included:
 - Asking the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health to conduct a study
 - More closely examining RWJ County Health Rankings, YBRFS & behavioral health data
 - Obtaining funding for a study using Healthy Harford as a pass-through
- Youth representatives were asked what ideas they had for improving tobacco use prevention efforts among adolescents. Their suggestions included more information on ENDS and vaping and continued emphasis on school-based initiatives not limited to but including peer education and more presentations.

Action Items:

- Review materials regarding civil enforcement legislation in Harford County in order to move this agenda forward for consideration by County Council.
- Identify opportunities to engage managers of multi-unit housing units in discussion of implementation of (HUD mandated) tobacco-restricted and/or tobacco free policies for residents.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 8:30am on March 15th at the Historic Colored H.S. on Hays Street in Bel Air . ***** (That meeting and the April meeting subsequently were cancelled on account of scheduling conflicts and our next meeting was rescheduled for Monday, May 23rd at the Historic Colored High School conference room in Bel Air.**

Adjournment: 10:10am