

# MEETING NOTES

## CRF Tobacco / LHIC Tobacco Workgroup

Monday, June 27, 2016, 8:30 am  
Historic Colored High School, 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014

**Attendees:** Vickie Bands, Chair (UM/UCHS)  
Greta Brand (Educ. & Training Specialist, Private Citizen)  
Sylvia Bryant (Harford County Community Services)  
Mallory Callahan (Health Policy Analyst, HCHD)  
Donkayia Graham-Carter (Community Participant)  
Susan Kelly (Health Officer, HCHD)  
Bari Klein (HCHD, UM/UCHS / Healthy Harford)  
Cynthia Lince (representing Council President Slutzky)  
Russell Moy, M.D. (Deputy Health Officer, HCHD)  
Mark Puckett (Harford County Public Schools)  
Bill Wiseman (Public Health Education, HCHD)

### General Business:

- Chairperson, Ms. Bands called the meeting to order and welcomed members to re-introduce themselves. The summary notes of the May 23<sup>rd</sup> coalition meeting were approved as distributed.
- Ms. Bands recognized Ms. Cynthia Lince, attending on behalf of Council President Slutzky.
- An update was provided and was subsequently discussed on the proposed County legislation to convert criminal enforcement of illegal sales of tobacco products to underage minors. The proposed bill was withdrawn after the public hearing. Although the MOU from DHMH authorizing the County to act on the State's behalf in matters of enforcement was signed and received; County administrative representatives raised concerns just prior to the public hearing on the proposed legislation, including:
  - Their role in the potential appeal process and related issues
  - Wording regarding indemnification
- The possibility exists for the local bill to be reintroduced under the authority of the Board of Health. Council President Slutzky will take the summer to review the language, more closely examine policy-making and confer with other Council Members.
- Group discussion followed. In response to administrative concerns about appeals of illegal sales citations, members of the local judiciary were consulted and seemed to support an appeals process that would involve the courts.
- In the meantime, Mr. Wiseman will continue using the Harford County Sheriff's Office to run compliance checks. (Subsequently, by way of correspondence from DHMH, it was learned that Harford had a 95% compliance rate resulting from DHMH Synar inspections of a 20% sampling of all Harford tobacco retailers.) Mr. Wiseman expressed his gratitude for and satisfaction with the excellent work of the HCSO during FY16.
- Discussion moved to the topic of Smoke-Free multi-unit housing. Ms. Bands reached out to Len Parish of the Harford County Housing Authority and will send out copies of Mr. Parish's response. Several coalition representatives attended the Maryland Healthy Housing Symposium on June 1<sup>st</sup> hosted by DHMH and the University of MD Legal Resource Center in the wake of newly introduced US Housing & Urban Development regulations calling for the prohibition of residential smoking inside their housing units. The predominant theme of the symposium was not focused on personal attacks of smokers; rather, about the positive impact of the regulations on improving the health of all residents.
- Ms. Klein mentioned Councilman Perrone expressed concerns over infringement on personal rights. Ms. Bands suggested reaching out to him as a group.

- Ms. Bands informed members about Dr. Moy and Dr. Phil's presentation on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Kaufman Cancer Center as part of a community outreach event for the community and also inform them of the County's health issues and how the County compares to the rest of MD. The focus will be on Cancer. Also talked about the purchase of an inflatable walk through colon for teaching purposes about the importance of being screened, early detection, and colorectal polyps and cancer.
- Mr. Wiseman reported briefly on the submission of the FY17 CRF Tobacco and Enforcement Grants. HCHD will receive an additional \$5,000 in CRF funding but because of the success in reducing illegal sales of tobacco to minors, enforcement funding in FY17 was cut approximately 40% to \$55,000.
- Ms. Klein reminded the group about the annual Healthy Harford Day on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Last year the event drew a record crowd and it is expected that number will grow again this year.
- Ms. Kelly reminded the group of the Harford County Zika Town Hall meeting taking place today, Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 – 3:00p in the Council Chambers. Several distinguished representatives will speak, including DHMH Deputy Secretary, Dr. Howard Haft.
- There was group consensus to suspend Tobacco Coalition meetings for the summer and to reconvene in September.

**Action Items:**

- Go back and review the civil enforcement proposal with an eye on revision.
- 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 Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at the Historic Colored H.S. on Hays Street in Bel Air.

**Adjournment:** 10:05am