

MEETING NOTES

CRF Tobacco / LHIC Tobacco Workgroup

Monday, September 26, 2016, 8:30 am
Historic Colored High School, 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (UM/UCHS)
Sylvia Bryant (Harford County Community Services)
Mallory Callahan (Health Policy Analyst, HCHD)
Anne Cerruto (Office on Aging)
Karen Goodison (UM/UCHS)
Kathi Hoke (Legal Resource Center)
Susan Kelly (Health Officer, HCHD)
Russell Moy, M.D. (Deputy Health Officer, HCHD)
Linda Pegram (Tobacco Cessation Specialist, HCHD)
Mark Puckett (Harford County Public Schools)
Dorothy Ruff (Tobacco Education Specialist, HCHD)
Gail Sauer (Health & Wellness Coordinator, APG)
Richard Slutzky (President, Harford County Council)
Nancy Thrush (MedStar)
Kristie Willats (UM/UCHS)

General Business:

- Ms. Bands called the meeting to order and asked members to introduce themselves. Nancy Thrush, from MedStar Health, was welcomed as a new member.
- Ms. Kelly gave a brief introduction of the role of the LHIC and their three priorities: Tobacco, Obesity, and Behavioral Health. The group was also reminded of the Annual LHIC meeting on October 17th at Harford Community College.
- Ms. Hoke explained her involvement in the County's attempts to change the sale of tobacco products to minors from a criminal to a civil offense. A dedicated group of individuals has been working over the past year to have a bill passed by County Council, but are now considering approaching the issue through the Board of Health (both bodies consist of the same members in Harford County). Passing a regulation through the Board of Health would ensure that Harford County's three municipalities (Bel Air, Aberdeen, and Havre de Grace) would also have to uphold the legislation.
- The State's Synar Regulation was also mentioned in connection with the proposed bill. If a county is found to have over 20% non-compliance of retailers selling tobacco products to minors, the result will be a reduction in Federal Block Grants for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment services.
- Push-back for the legislation has come from retail stakeholders, as well as lobbyists that argue that any legislation produced at the county level would be pre-empted by State law. Ten Maryland counties have already successfully passed similar legislation (either through the County Council, Board of Health, or statute).
- Members also expressed concern that electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and synthetic marijuana would not be included in the legislation. It was explained that any products that fall outside of the controlled dangerous substance (CDS) language would be easier to approach at the local level.
- It was noted that Secretary Van Mitchell has been very supportive of local efforts to change criminal penalties to civil, in the form of fines and education for retailers. Council President Slutzky's dedication to the efforts was also recognized by the group, and he plans to seek guidance from other counties and the Harford County Health Department moving forward.

- The conversation shifted toward smoke-free Public Housing. Proposed legislation by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) includes regulations that would make all public housing authorities smoke free by 2018. Currently no funding has been provided to support nicotine cessation and education programs for residents, but options are being explored. More education will need to be done to get ENDS included, especially with their new FDA regulation that began in August 2016. Legislation prohibiting smoking in cars with children was also mentioned, but has been denied several times.
- Ms. Bands went on to explain UMUCH's nicotine policy, which prohibits hiring employees who test positive for tobacco products or nicotine replacement therapy (NRT). They have already seen instances in which potential hires were turned away due to positive tests. MedStar follows similar guidance as it relates to employee health insurance pricing for smokers and non-smokers.
- Ms. Bands reminded members about Dr. Moy and Dr. Phil's presentation on September 28th at the Kaufman Cancer Center as part of a community outreach event. The focus will be on cancer and an update of Harford County health data as it relates to the state.
- Mr. Puckett stated that he will be working on recruiting new students for the committee this school year. Last year's student member was pleased with her experience and has shared her enthusiasm with her peers.
- Ms. Goodison informed members that their Respiratory Therapy Program has been working to train more employees in tobacco cessation for clients. They have also been able to independently provide portable nebulizers to patients, increasing their ability to follow treatment recommendations outside of the home. They are hoping to see more treatment success with the addition of asthma and COPD educational materials, and a new Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs for patients.
- Ms. Pegram informed members that a new Motivational Interviewing training from the Danya Institute has helped inspire clients to embrace positive change. If additional spots remain, the trainings on October 19th and 20th will be opened to the Tobacco Workgroup.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 8:30 am on October 24, 2016 at the Historic Colored H.S. on Hays Street in Bel Air.

Adjournment: 10:10 am