

MEETING NOTES

CRF Tobacco / LHIC Tobacco Workgroup

Monday, November 28, 2016, 8:30 am
Historic Colored High School, 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (UMUCH)
Greta Brand (Educ. & Training Specialist, Private Citizen)
Sylvia Bryant (Harford County Community Services)
Mallory Callahan (Health Policy Analyst, HCHD)
Karen Goodison (UMUCH)
Susan Kelly (Health Officer, HCHD)
Mark Lewis (UMUCH)
Russell Moy (Deputy Health Officer, HCHD)
Linda Pegram (CRF Cessation, HCHD)
Dottie Ruff (CRF Community & School, HCHD)
Richard Slutzky (President, Harford County Council)
Kristie Willats (UMUCH)
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 October 24th coalition meeting were distributed. A correction was added and the notes were approved as revised. She announced there will be no December meeting of the Coalition.
- While much more research currently is underway regarding E-cigs / ENDS products, Ms. Bands distributed copies of the E-cig / ENDS position papers (that is, the shorter “consumer”-targeted one-page paper as well as the 3-page expanded version), last revised in October, 2015 for purposes of updating the information, format and design of these documents. Members brainstormed aspects of ENDS worthy of addressing including, among others, dangers of explosion, newly identified health risks associated with use and current marketing and advertising schemes that appeal particularly to young adults and youth. Members of a workgroup were identified who will work on crafting changes for discussion at the next meeting.
- Next under consideration was the draft of a “Smoke-Free Housing” informational sheet discussed at the October meeting. Ms. Pegram and Ms. Willats reminded the group that there already are organizations creating position statements in this regard (so as not to “reinvent the wheel”) and recommended integrating key “talking points” that included, but were not limited to:
 - adverse health impact of second and third hand smoke, particularly among young children, older adults and those whose breathing already is compromised by a respiratory condition;
 - increasing public demand for smoke-free housing as relates to “market appeal”;
 - predictable economic expense to building ownership and managers in the way of “turnover” costs related to repair and replacement as well as insurance costs due to potential fire and/or smoke damage;
 - although people with respiratory conditions may be protected, smokers are not a “protected class” and are afforded no rights regarding tobacco use; thus, the opportunity for legal recourse (against management) for residents suffering consequences of exposure to tobacco smoke.
- Other contributions by members focused on the importance of open disclosure by management regarding their tobacco use policy, especially as pertains to any areas (including residential areas) where use of lighted tobacco products is prohibited, thereby potentially serving as another layer of (legal) protection for ownership and management. Ms. Pegram reminded

members that aside from contaminated air shared through HVAC systems, tobacco smoke travels through small air spaces, including plumbing and electrical spaces.

- Led by Ms. Bands, the membership had several other related questions. Do rental applications include personal information regarding tobacco use status? In Harford County, how does someone locate available units and/or identify what units might be “smoke-free”? Do any apartment managers currently advertise “smoke-free” buildings or units? How would the Coalition identify what multi-housing complexes in Harford are owned and/or managed locally (versus regionally or nationally)? Would a resident “questionnaire” (regarding attitudes about tobacco use and tobacco-free policy) have a place in this process? And if so, how might we go about facilitating this with multi-unit housing managers and ownership?
- To the last point, Ms. Bands and Dr. Moy spoke to this in the context of the Harford Community Health Needs Assessment and also evoked the possibility of implementing a web-based public survey (for residents of multi-unit housing). Mr. Lewis mentioned the possibility of “built-in bias” if conducted under the auspices of a “pro-health” site (e.g., HH, UM UCH or HCHD). Another possibility mentioned was conducting focus groups. Mr. Slutzky reiterated the special value of this feedback when directed at “new” construction.
- Building on their already existing image, reputation and credibility, the idea of developing a Healthy Harford “Smoke-free” designation was suggested. Invitations to the next Coalition meeting will be extended to Bari Klein and Sharon Lipford for purposes of facilitating further discussion on the viability of the concept, and potential criteria for such a designation. Mr. Lewis suggested developing the brand while developing the market and the criteria. Dr. Moy recommended beginning with a clear policy with clearly established parameters as a means of most simply and quickly initiating this process.
- Ms. Brand recommended making “smoke-free policy” developmental resources available to interested building managers. Ms. Pegram reiterated there is good information already available on-line in this regard, and stressed the importance of ensuring that “vaping”/use of ENDS are included, along with lighted tobacco products.
- For purposes of promoting smoke-free policies to residential managers and ownership, Mr. Wiseman asked if, beyond anecdotal evidence, any hard documentation/data was available (from DHMH or elsewhere) as to the economic benefits and successes of the Maryland Clean Indoor Act, particularly as relates to consumer response, satisfaction with smoke-free eating establishments. That will require further research.
- It was suggested we request input from Mr. Rich Truitt, Deputy Director of Harford County Inspections, Licenses & Permits and Mr. Moe Davenport, Chief of the Development Review Section of Harford County Planning and Zoning regarding their thoughts about how and where our activities may have the greatest impact.

Action Items:

- Review and update of Coalition E-cig / ENDS position papers, last reviewed in October 2015 for discussion at the January meeting.
- A draft of a smoke-free housing informational sheet developed by Ms. Willats and Ms. Pegram will be disseminated to the membership for review and comment for purposes of continuing discussion at the January meeting.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting is scheduled to be held at 8:30am on Monday, January 23, 2017 at the Historic Colored High School on Hays Street in Bel Air.

Adjournment: 10:05am