

MEETING NOTES

CRF Tobacco / LHIC Tobacco Workgroup

Monday, March 27, 2017, 8:30 am

Historic Colored High School, 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair, University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health (UMUCH)
Marcy Austin, Acting Deputy Health Officer, Harford County Health Department (HCHD)
Antia Brown, TU Student Intern, UMUCH
Sylvia Bryant, Harford County Community Services
Mallory Callahan, Health Policy Analyst, HCHD
Anne Cerruto, Harford County Office on Aging
Susan Kelly, Health Officer, HCHD
Corporal Brian O'Neil, Harford County Sheriff's Office
Linda Pegram, CRF Tobacco Cessation and Community, HCHD
Dottie Ruff, CRF Tobacco, Community & School, HCHD
Gale Sauer, Aberdeen Proving Ground
Richard Slutzky President, Harford County Council
Nancy Thrush, MedStar Health
Kristie Willats, UMUCH
Bill Wiseman, Public Health Education, CRF Tobacco, HCHD

General Business:

- Chairperson, Ms. Bands opened the meeting with member self-introductions and with approval of the summary notes of the February Tobacco Coalition meeting.
- Ms. Ruff reported on the status of CRF Tobacco funded community and school mini-grants. Although no follow-up is expected in FY17 regarding the Infant Mortality Review Committee proposal mentioned by Ms. Nasuta at the February meeting, Dottie reported a full complement of four community-based mini-grants, and three school-based peer education mini-grants will have been funded, thus successfully meeting those CRF Tobacco Program performance measures for the year.
- Ms. Ruff and Mr. Wiseman are finalizing wording of a proposed memorandum to all health care practice managers in the county informing them of available CRF Tobacco Program smoking cessation/tobacco treatment services and resources, with the intention of increasing physician awareness and patient referrals and increasing tobacco treatment participation.
 - We have been able to secure a list of practices to whom we can mail correspondence.
 - Ms. Bands can arrange blast fax to all UMUCH affiliated physicians.
 - Leslie Clark, Director of the UMUCH Comprehensive Care Clinic, meets quarterly with Harford practice managers, and can distribute the letters and speak with them about it.
- Regarding "smoke-free multi-unit housing", Ms. Pegram reported meeting with 20 residents of the Havre de Grace Housing Authority; only one expressed interest in seeking help quitting.
- Linda also spoke briefly about the FY17 downturn in cessation/tobacco treatment client numbers, also citing greatly reduced class sizes and stressing the importance of engaging more people for purposes of getting the "word out."
 - Ms. Bands inquired about class size for the recently organized MedStar programs. Linda has been partnering closely with Ms. Thrush and reported 5 participants in the first (fall, 2016) class and 9 for the second (spring, 2017) class.
- Members briefly and informally discussed their personal experiences and observations relative to the MD Clean Indoor Air Act.
- Health Department Tobacco Program staff provided brief program updates. Copies of the CRF Tobacco Program mid-year semi-annual report were distributed to the membership.

- Mr. Wiseman and Corporal O'Neil reported on Synar Supplementary Enforcement grant initiatives. Tobacco retailer enforcement compliance checks were performed on nearly two thirds of their expected number; thus far, of the 100 retailers checked in FY17, only 6 citations were served.
- Ms. Ruff reported nearly all CRF Tobacco Program community-based and school-based performance measures already were met and projects all will be met for FY17. However, she commented that faith-based tobacco awareness initiatives were becoming increasingly more difficult to implement. Ms. Bryant mentioned working with several local ministerial and will forward those contacts to Dottie.
- Ms. Pegram reiterated that tobacco cessation/treatment numbers have trended down over the past several years. We will not reach that DHMH assigned performance measure this year. Ms Bands suggested the possibility of conducting on-site seminars for physicians seeking professional certification credits. UNUCH will be conducting some of their own seminars and will report back on how well received they are.
- Ms. Bands distributed copies of the most recent Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance (YBRFS) data, followed by some brief discussion, noting in particular that rates of cigarette use among Harford youth remains higher than the state average and that e-cig/vape use in Harford remains significantly higher than for any other tobacco product.
- Copies of revised versions of the "E-Cig" information sheets (intended for public consumption) were disseminated by Ms. Willats and received very positive remarks, although more feedback was provided as we near the completion of this project. There was discussion of including (graphic) images that would impact audiences and that various audiences might relate to. It was also suggested that wording be condensed to integrate both health and safety risks of vaping. Another suggestion was to reference the recent Surgeon General's Report (on Electronic Cigarettes and Youth) for alternative wording. Another edition will be crafted and distributed to the membership. Additional feedback will be forwarded to Ms. Willats prior to the April meeting.
- Ms. Pegram reminded the membership that the CRF Tobacco Program and UMUCH are partnering once again to provide two "Motivational Interviewing" trainings in late April. Several spots are still available on either day of training. Members should contact Linda for details or to register.
- Ms. Bands closed the meeting by directing the membership to consider what the Coalition wishes to consider accomplishing in FY18. Bring your ideas that will serve as a basis for discussion at the April meeting. She also encouraged members to identify individuals and organizations who "are not here" but for whom Coalition representation might be mutually supportive and beneficial. Mr. Wiseman added that, pursuant to the CRF Tobacco Program "enacting legislation", these ideas will be incorporated into the strategic action plan for the upcoming FY18 grant.

Action Items:

- Finalize editing of the revised Coalition E-cig / ENDS position papers.
- Continue to review and provide input into the multi-unit housing informational sheet.
- Consider Coalition goals for FY18 for discussion at the April meeting.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 24, 2017 at 8:30AM at the Historic Colored High School on Hays Street in Bel Air.

Adjournment: 10:00am