

MEETING NOTES

CRF Tobacco / LHIC Tobacco Workgroup

Monday, January 23, 2017, 8:30 am
Historic Colored High School, 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014

Attendees: Vickie Bands, Chair (UMUCH)
Hannah Bala (Student, Patterson Mill HS)
Sylvia Bryant (HC Community Services)
Mallory Callahan (Health Policy Analyst, HCHD)
Anne Cerruto (HC Office on Aging)
Capt. Mike Crabbs (HC Sheriff's Office)
Chuck Johnson (City of Aberdeen)
Susan Kelly (Health Officer, HCHD)
Bari Klein (HCHD and UMUCH)
Mark Lewis (UMUCH)
Julia Merritt (Bel Air HS)
Linda Pegram (CRF Cessation, HCHD)
Mark Puckett (HC Public Schools)
Erin Pugh (Student, Bel Air HS)
Dottie Ruff (CRF Community & School, HCHD)
Richard Slutzky (President, Harford County Council)
Nancy Thrush (MedStar Cancer Center)
Kristie Willats (UMUCH)
Bill Wiseman (Public Health Education, HCHD)

General Business:

- Chairperson, Ms. Bands called the meeting to order, welcomed members to re-introduce themselves and acknowledged the participation of (three) public health class student representatives from Bel Air HS and Patterson Mill HS. The summary notes of the November 28th coalition meeting were distributed and approved.
- Attention was directed to a display board and examples of vaping and tobacco products brought by Ms. Willats and Ms. Ruff, respectively. Following brief discussion, members were welcomed to look at them more closely and to provide feedback on them.
- Following discussion at the November meeting, Ms. Ruff reported having spoken with management representatives from each of the multi-unit housing communities currently under construction, none of whom had nor planned to develop smoke-free policies for residents.
- Ms. Ruff also reminded members about the availability of school and community-based "Special Opportunity Mini-grants" for FY17 (ending June 30th) as a part of HCHD CRF Tobacco Program-funded annual performance measures, explained award amounts, and encouraged submission of "easy-to-complete" applications as soon as possible by interested parties.
- Ms. Pegram mentioned two "smokeless" tobacco observances taking place in February: the Great American Spit-Out on February 23rd and national "Through With Chew Week", February 24th-20th. More information will be shared via email.
- Mr. Wiseman provided brief overview of the continuing (tobacco enforcement) collaboration with Harford County Public Schools, providing opportunities to participate in after-school tobacco education/cessation classes in lieu of lengthier school suspensions. Several Tobacco Coalition representatives will be attending the annual MD Quit Best Practices Conference at Turf Valley on January 26th.
- Copies of a revised E-cig position paper were disseminated to the membership for review and comment. The question arose as to whether this was intended as an "educational" piece (e.g. "Did You Know") versus a "call to action" (e.g., "Do this; don't do that") whereby language might differ significantly. Feedback included:

- Make it more direct and factual
- Make it less narrative, simpler, shorter; consolidate some bullet points
- Make it more “visual”
- Make it more attention grabbing (e.g., “Don’t be fooled” or “A warning from the HC Tobacco Coalition).
- Attach more emphasis on the “tone” of the message
- There was some discussion about recruiting youth to craft an eye-catching message that takes a communication piece to another level and turns it into something that appeals to their peers (possibly in the form of a school-based CRF Tobacco Peer-education grant) and that might also explore video and/or other social media applications (such as was recently done in Anne Arundel County). Mr. Johnson suggested a strong “peer-to peer” warning and call to action be incorporated. Another suggestion was made to reach out to the 5 Public Health classes to create some competition between them in this regard. Council President Slutzky suggested also reaching out to other local youth organizations with solid foundations such as scouting groups. Captain Crabbs added the Harford County Youth Commission under Tara Lanthrop (HC Community Services) as a group worthy of contacting for their ideas and input.
- In light of the dissolution of FACE-IT, Ms. Bands inquired who the best faith-based contacts in Harford County were. Ms. Bryant in her capacity as Harford County Director of Community Services, and Ms. Klein and Ms. Lipford as representatives of Healthy Harford are acknowledged to be primary points of contact in this regard.
- Mr. Slutzky commented about the 2017 “Tobacco 21” legislative proposal. Ms. Kelly shared her perspective as Health Officer on this and several proposed tobacco-related proposals.
- The UM Legal Resource Center will continue to track all tobacco and public health-related bills and make updates available to local health departments. Mr. Wiseman updated members on this and other pieces of tobacco legislation being considered in the 2017 MD legislative session, including proposals to:
 - Raise the legal age of tobacco product purchase or possession to age 21
 - Increase to \$21 million the annual funding for local tobacco control statewide initiatives (from the current rate of approximately \$10 million), whereby legislation is intended to put this funding into the FY18 budget and ensure this level of funding in future budgets; given the state fiscal deficit, this is not likely to move out of committee, whereby emphasis will shift to FY19.
 - Expand the MCIAA to ban vaping anywhere tobacco use currently is prohibited
 - Require licensure for any retailer selling e-cig/vaping products
 - Extend the MCIAA prohibition of smoking to include all hotel rooms
 - Allow civil enforcement via monetary citations in all MD jurisdictions
- Mr. Wiseman discussed what local health departments can and cannot do with respect to proposed legislation. Health departments and their personnel are forbidden from lobbying for or against proposed legislation and as such are forbidden from referencing specific bills; however, they can educate “on and to” the issues without reference to particular pieces of legislation. Ms. Bands will communicate with Mr. Wiseman for purposes of keeping the membership informed about issues and the importance of corresponding with elected officials, as appropriate.

Action Items:

- Intensify review of the revised Coalition E-cig / ENDS position papers.
- Initiate discussion with HCPS Public Health classes regarding e-cig informational pamphlet.
- Continue to review and provide input into the multi-unit housing informational sheet.

Next Meeting:

- As a result of the President’s Day holiday observance, the next meeting is scheduled to be held at 8:30am on Monday, February 27, 2017 at the Historic Colored High School on Hays Street in Bel Air.

Adjournment: 10:10am