

## MEETING NOTES

### CRF Tobacco / LHIC Tobacco Workgroup

Monday, February 27, 2017, 8:30 am  
Historic Colored High School, 205 S. Hays Street, Bel Air, MD, 21014

**Attendees:** Vickie Bands, Chair (UMUCH)  
Hannah Bala (Student representative)  
Anita Browne (Towson Univ. Intern)  
Sylvia Bryant (HC Community Services)  
Mary Kate Buelow (Student representative)  
Mallory Callahan (Health Policy Analyst, HCHD)  
Alexandria Hobbs (Student representative)  
Sharon Lipford (Healthy Harford)  
Mary Nasuta (HCPS Nursing Coord., HC Child Fatality Review Committee)  
Linda Pegram (CRF Tobacco Cessation and Community, HCHD)  
Mark Puckett (HC Public Schools)  
Donna Riemer  
Dottie Ruff (CRF Tobacco, Community & School, HCHD)  
Gale Sauer (Aberdeen Proving Ground)  
Richard Slutzky (President, Harford County Council)  
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 January Tobacco Coalition meeting. Mr. Puckett brought several new youth representatives to the meeting who received a cordial reception from the membership.
- The first order of business was review and feedback on (two) revised “E-Cig” information sheets (intended for public consumption) presented for consideration by student representatives. Suggestions were to utilize unused space in a tri-fold format to include Tobacco Coalition contact information, to add visuals such as charts or graphics, and to incorporate information from both examples into one. Additional feedback can be forwarded to Ms. Willats prior to the March meeting.
- Ms. Bands and Ms. Pegram provided an update on Havre de Grace Housing Authority progress toward complying with HUD-mandated smoke-free housing regulations. Both visited the community since the January meeting to get feedback and assure management that support was available. There is no baseline information regarding the number of residents who smoke tobacco. Ms. Bands references a survey that was implemented several years ago that revealed most occupants approved of a smoke-free policy. Ms. Pegram will speak at a March “residents” meeting” to provide tobacco-use awareness information and in an effort to promote and organize cessation program resources for residents. Questions from the membership included:
  - Whether administrators were using the HUD Toolkit effectively in preparation for implementation of smoke-free policy?
  - Whether the community is conforming with the prescribed timetables in preparation for smoke-free policy implementation?
- Ms. Sharon Lipford, Executive Director of Healthy Harford, was introduced and discussed creating “smoke-free” designations in commercial multi-unit housing communities in Harford county and ways to give recognition to those that do. Referencing the “Smoke-Free Housing in New York” website ([www.smokefreehousingny.org](http://www.smokefreehousingny.org)), she reiterated the importance of a “business

understanding” of the benefits of smoke-free policy, particularly as relates to cost-savings and liability issues. She and the website also emphasize the benefits to management of smoke-free designation during the pre-opening phases of these projects so as to avoid dealing with the financial costs and resident “push-back” associated with “retrofitting” policy”. Some states already have created tax incentives for smoke-free housing communities.

- Mr. Slutzky suggested engaging management of new complexes (such as Beards Hill) in discussion while they are still in the construction phase and prior to leasing.
  - Our smoke-free multi-unit housing information sheet needs further refinement.
  - The suggestion was made to investigate what Howard and Montgomery counties might already be doing in this regard.
  - Healthy Harford will continue to collaborate with the Coalition on a “Smoke Free Housing” designation initiative
- Mary Nasuta, HCPS Nursing Coordinator and member of the Harford County Infant Mortality Review Committee was introduced and discussed the relevance of tobacco use to unexpected infant deaths, noting both prenatal smoking and smoke pollution in homes. Harford has the sixth highest rate in the state. She mentioned the importance of targeting obstetricians, primary care physicians and pediatricians to create more awareness. Ms. Pegram discussed current CRF Tobacco Program activities that outreach to healthcare practitioners. Suggestions from the membership included:
    - Adapt one or more of the visuals from the media campaign created several years ago by the LHIC Tobacco Workgroup for this purpose and broadly distribute them.
    - Crafting informational correspondences to “blast-fax” information to physicians’ offices.
    - Creation of videos that might be viewed in physicians’ offices.
    - CRF Tobacco mini-grant funding potentially is available to complete some of these projects.
  - Ms. Ruff again reminded members about the availability of CRF Tobacco Program-funded school and community-based “Special Opportunity Mini-grants” for FY17 (ending June 30<sup>th</sup>).
  - Mr. Wiseman reported that the UM Legal Resource Center continues to track all tobacco and public health-related legislative proposals. He is electronically forwarding updates to the membership when received. In light of economics, any proposed legislation receiving “unfavorable” reports from the Economics Committee are unlikely to move forward in 2017. Included among these are efforts directed at increasing local tobacco control funding and raising the legal age of tobacco product purchase to age twenty one.
  - CRF Tobacco staff provided brief overviews of program work and will report more comprehensively on this at the March meeting.

**Action Items:**

- Intensify review of the revised Coalition E-cig / ENDS position papers.
- Continue to review and provide input into the multi-unit housing informational sheet.

**Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2017 at 8:30AM at the Historic Colored High School on Hays Street in Bel Air.

**Adjournment:** 10:15am