

# The Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition Tobacco Workgroup 2015 Activities

- Position Paper on E-Cigarettes
- Community Paper on E-Cigarettes
- Criminal vs Civil Enforcement for underage sales of tobacco to minors
- Worksite Tobacco Policy Phone Survey
- Development of Policies for Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing
- Continual Community Awareness
- Welcomes new members

THE HARFORD COUNTY LOCAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT COALITION TOBACCO WORKGROUP suggests that e-cigarettes, or e-cigs, be kept away from public places, buildings and offices until they are closely regulated and more is known about them and their potential risks. They also suggest that school and human resources' policies treat e-cigs just like other tobacco products.

## ARE E-CIGARETTES SAFE? No.

### E-CIGARETTES...

- are NOT safer than smoking tobacco
- are NOT nicotine-free just because the label says so
- are NOT an FDA approved method to quit smoking
- ARE ADDICTIVE

### WHY?

- An e-cig's quality, ingredients or safety are not checked.
- E-cigs have been reported to malfunction and explode.
- The long term effects of using e-cigs are not known yet.
- Studies are still on-going to learn the level of risk with using e-cigs.
- A 2009 study found toxic, cancer causing substances in the e-cig liquid cartridge.
- There is enough nicotine in 1 tablespoon of e-cig liquid to kill a 65 lb child.
- If the e-cig liquid gets on the skin, it could cause nausea and vomiting.
- Children who try e-cigs are likely to try smoking tobacco as well.
- E-cig residue, in the air and on surfaces, may contain chemicals that are harmful to others.

### NOW, ASK YOURSELF:

- Do I *know* what is in the vial of liquid in e-cigs?
- Do I *know* what the long term effects of using e-cigs are?
- Do I *know* that e-cigs can cause illness and injury?
- Do I *know* that e-cigs are not regulated?

**TOBACCO POLICY SURVEY for Harford County Businesses**  
**Harford County Local Health Improvement Coalition Tobacco Work Group**

NOTE: COVER LETTER OR TALKING POINTS NEEDED TO INTRODUCE THE SURVEY

**1. Does your business currently have a policy on tobacco use?**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**2. Does your tobacco policy include smokeless products?**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**3. Does your tobacco policy include e-cigarettes/vaping products?**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**4. Does your business provide a designated area for your employees/customers to smoke or use other tobacco products?**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**5. Are you enforcing the current tobacco policy?**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**6. Do your smoking/tobacco-using employees pay a higher insurance premium?**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**7. Are you interested in holding a tobacco cessation program at your business as a service to your employees?**

- ☐ YES      email address: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ NO      phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Would you be interested in getting the overall survey results?**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**9. Would you, or someone in your organization, be interested in attending a tobacco education seminar that would include development of smoke free policies as well as smoking cessation resources?**

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

## LRC NEWSFLASH

# Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Responsible Tobacco Retailer Campaign

In response to data showing an increase in the number of Maryland licensed tobacco retailers who sell tobacco to minors, the DHMH Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control launched the Responsible Tobacco Retailer Initiative. This Initiative aims to reduce youth access to tobacco products by promoting responsible tobacco retailing and reinforcing that selling tobacco to youth under the age of 18 is in violation of local, state and federal laws.

Over the past year, Local Health Departments, community-based organizations, the Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy, the Office of the Comptroller, the Behavioral Health Administration, and the Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control have worked closely to increase educational and enforcement efforts statewide to assist retailers with remaining in compliance with all youth tobacco sales laws.

In addition to the extensive activities conducted at the local level, the Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control has developed educational packets which were sent to all licensed tobacco retailers in Maryland. Ads were placed on radio, transit and billboards throughout the state, with the tag line "Selling tobacco to kids - It's not a minor thing!"

The Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control is excited to announce that an online training module for tobacco retailers is **now available** at [www.NoTobaccoSalesToMinors.com](http://www.NoTobaccoSalesToMinors.com). Additionally, campaign materials are available on the website for free download and ordering. If you have any questions or would like to order materials please contact [dhmh.notobaccosalestominors@maryland.gov](mailto:dhmh.notobaccosalestominors@maryland.gov).

**Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy**  
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law  
500 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-706-0842  
[publichealth@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:publichealth@law.umaryland.edu)

- The Harford County  
Local Health Improvement Coalition  
Tobacco Workgroup  
FOCUS for 2016
- Survey Results
- Future Plans:
  1. Cigarette Restitution Fund
  2. County workgroup