



B I S M A R C K TOBACCOFREE C O A L I T I O N

Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health
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Spring 2013



Local Housing Leaders Offer Expertise to Coalition

A panel presentation on smoke free multi-unit housing was presented at the March 5 Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition meeting. Panel members were Rhonda Brunmeier, Regional Property Manager of IRET Properties, Dwight Barden, Executive Director of Burleigh County Housing, Kendre Israel, Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition Board Member and Pat McGeary, facilitator.

Rhonda Brunmeier from IRET Properties reported apartment complexes began going smoke free in 2010. She listed the benefits being lower insurance premiums, less damage and clean up, fewer complaints and a reduction in fire risk. Her advice to other property managers considering adopting a policy was "Have a plan, be prepared ahead of time, and have a designated area for smokers to go. It is easier to rent when a smoke free policy is one of the amenities."

Dwight Barden, Executive Director from Burleigh County Housing set a smoke free policy at Crescent Manor and Crescent West on January 1, 2013. The Terrace, another Burleigh County Housing property is also smoke free. According to Dwight, when a heavy smoker lived in an apartment for just 6 months, it cost about \$1000 to get it back to proper condition. He further stated, "As a landlord, there are less maintenance costs with a smoke free policy." He closed his presentation with some food for thought, "We don't allow real Christmas trees (inside apartments) because of fire hazards so why should we allow smoking?"



Liz Williams

The third panel speaker was Kendre Israel who recently moved to Bismarck and was looking for a smoke free apartment. She said properties advertised as smoke free were hard to find. She provided the smoke free information for her landlord and 4 months after she moved in, the apartment building adopted a smoke free policy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bismarck Tobacco Free Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.

World No Tobacco Day

Thursday, May 30, 2013

Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health

June 5 – 7, 2013

Liz Williams from the Americans for Nonsmokers Rights Foundation gave a presentation on the national trends in smoke free housing. The Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition is planning to develop educational materials for multi-unit housing including the benefits of going smoke free and the steps needed to make the policy a success.



left to right:
Rhonda Brunmeier, Dwight Barden, Kendre Israel



Smoke Free Multi-Unit Housing Project Begins

Bismarck has been selected by Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI) to be one of three national intervention sites for promoting smoke free multi-unit housing. Roswell Park Cancer Institute is a comprehensive cancer research and treatment center located in Buffalo, New York. The project functions under the Department of Cancer Prevention and Population Sciences as tobacco research and intervention efforts. The Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition will be participating in a nationwide movement of promoting smoke free multi-unit housing. According to RPCI and the

American for Nonsmokers Rights Foundation (ANRF), the qualifiers for Bismarck being selected were having a strong coalition structure in place, having a comprehensive city smoke free ordinance and a comprehensive statewide smoke free law. The other two cities that join Bismarck are Charleston, South Carolina and Pueblo, Colorado. ANRF and RPCI will be offering technical assistance for this project. Educational materials will be developed for the community and multi-unit housing property owners and managers.

BreatheND

Saving lives, saving money. The voice of the people.

Bismarck Burleigh Tobacco Prevention Staff

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SMOKE-FREE HOUSING CAN SAVE LIVES

Secondhand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, including cyanide, lead, arsenic, mercury, formaldehyde, benzene, and acetone. About 70 of these cause cancer.
2010 US Surgeon General's Report

30% of residential fires in ND were in multi-unit dwellings in 2012. *ND Fire Marshall 2012.*

82% of Bismarck multi-unit housing residents prefer to have a policy that prohibits smoking in all indoor areas, including individual residential units and common indoor areas.
Roswell Park Cancer Institute 2013.

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