

Minutes



The Grand Forks Tobacco Free Coalition is a group of citizens working together to create and promote a healthier, tobacco-free community through education, legislation, and enforcement of policies.

Tuesday, January 10th, 2017

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Haley Thorson, Sarah Odegard, Kailee Dvorak, Denae Grove, Gail Halverson, Bethany Satrom, Leanne Kilzer, and Keith Westerfield.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

II. Legislative Update

Haley discussed the Center for Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy (AKA BreatheND) funding. The Legislative session has started, and there are bills that would take the program's funding and dismantle BreatheND. After December's GFTFC meeting, former-Governor Dalrymple submitted his budget to the legislature. It showed the funding for BreatheND to be at zero dollars for the 2017-19 Executive Budget; reallocating the Tobacco Prevention and Control Policy Trust Fund balance elsewhere. A small portion of funding for local public health would be redirected to the Department of Health, but would not be dedicated to tobacco prevention. The trust fund at the end of this fiscal year on June 30th will be at \$56 million and would be enough to fund BreatheND for 7 more years.

The City of Grand Forks sees this as a legislative priority. Working with the City Legislative Committee, it is important to keep focus tobacco program. Statewide this is an important priority as well. BreatheND is holding a press conference today in Fargo and Bismarck. Dr. Eric Johnson, President of TFND and others are going to speak to the importance of keeping BreatheND and the Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention Program. Haley, Kailee, and Sarah are planning to be present at the Senate Appropriations Committee Hearing that is chaired by Senator Ray Holmberg (Grand Forks District 17), tomorrow in Bismarck, regarding Senate Bill 2024. BreatheND has a lineup of key individuals to testify in favor of SB2024. Sarah wrote a letter to the editor published in last week's Herald, and will be published in other papers around ND next week. Anyone wishing to send their own letter can contact Haley, Kailee or Sarah if they need help. Members are also encouraged to write emails to Legislators.

The MSA brought money into ND starting in 1999 from a lawsuit between the states and the tobacco companies. From those payments, the state put 45 percent into the Water Development Trust Fund, 45 percent to Common Schools Trust Fund, and 10 percent to the Community Health Trust Fund. At the time, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program was under the Department for Health and the governor's budget only allowed three percent of what was given to them to be spent on tobacco prevention. From this large tobacco settlement lawsuit, less than 20 percent has provided funding towards tobacco prevention. The intent of the MSA was to provide funding for prevention of youth from starting tobacco usage.

A resolution to support BreatheND and the Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention Program was discussed. Many agencies across the state are signing. The resolution asks to maintain the comprehensive program at BreatheND and keep CDC recommended level funding. Members present read the resolution, and had no objections to it being signed and forwarded. The GF Board of Health will be apprised of the resolution on Thursday and hopefully sign it.

Good news, the Grand Forks Park District passed an amendment to the Tobacco-Free Parks Policy to remove smokeless tobacco exemptions at Ulland Softball Complex making Grand Forks comprehensive. The policy will be finalized after 2 readings.

III. Member Sharing

Kailee thanked the coalition members for their support and all they do in the community. They will need to put forth effort on education on how their program works and their successes.

Bethany talked about the new HUD Housing Law that passed, and the Housing Authority tobacco policy that passed in May 2015.

Leann talked about Altru's plans for outpatient visits by respiratory therapy for tobacco succession one-on-one. It is good to increase access for people who want to quit.

IV. Next Meeting – February 14th, 2017

V. Upcoming Events/Observances

- 65th ND Legislative Assembly, January 3rd-April 28th 2017, Bismarck
- Tobacco Prevention Coordinators Meeting, January 18-19, 2017, Bismarck
- Legislative Forum – GF City Council Chambers, January 21, February 18th & March 18th