

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, October 10th, 2017

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Grand Forks Public Health Department

Members Present: Haley Thorson, Kailee Dvorak, Sarah Odegard, Denae Grove, Bethany Satrom, Jodi Rambert, and Keith Westerfield. Also in attendance were UND nursing students: Shawna Buelow, Kayla Mayer, and Sarah Neva

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Members introduced themselves

II. CDC E-Cigarette Info

The world of e-cigs has evolved so fast, research cannot be done on them fast enough. A couple of weeks ago, the CDC had updated their position concerning e-cigs. According to their website, "E-cigs have the potential to benefit adult smokers who are not pregnant, if used as a complete substitute for regular cigarettes and other smoked tobacco products." For more information, check out https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm. Our concern is that youth, who have never smoked, start an addiction to e-cigarettes since they are heavily marketed towards them. E-cigs are still working on being regulated and are not a FDA-approved cessation device. ND state and local laws have not changed and still treat them as tobacco products. Our message will still be to recommend complete abstinence of tobacco use.

III. FDA Compliance Checks

Historically, more compliance checks were done in Grand Forks between the GFPD and DHS. There is a law with funding at DHS that if there were more than 20 percent failure rate they would lose a large amount of their federal funding. Currently, they are at about 18% failure. Compliance checks are also being done by the FDA, who was granted authority in 2009 to regulate tobacco products by regulating who could sell and buy tobacco products. There are around 90 licensed tobacco retailers in the Grand Forks city limits. Our job is to educate tobacco retailers as to what those laws are and help them gain compliance.

FDA compliance checks can be found at: www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/oc/inspections/oc_insp_searching.cfm.

IV. Member Sharing

Bethany stated that they have completed their point of sale training and are conducting compliance checks in East Grand Forks.

LeAnn stated that they have a tobacco cessation counselor now at Altru that does outpatient counseling by appointment. They also have a new lung cancer screening that refers patients there. Altru also received their Million Hearts Grant.

Haley shared that the GFPD is still in transition phase, from BreatheND to NDDoH. We hope to get updates at the next Tobacco Site Coordinators meeting, in Bismarck at the end of October.

V. Next Meeting – 09.12.2017