

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, December 12th, 2017

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Grand Forks Public Health Department

Members Present: Haley Thorson, Kailee Dvorak, Sarah Odegard, Bethany Satrom, Jodi Rambert, and Keith Westerfield

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

II. 25th Anniversary Celebration Recap

Haley thanked everyone that came to the celebration on November 14th. It was great to see people from the community showing support for the coalition and help propel the mission forward. Haley also shared a note from former BreatheND Director, Jeanne Prom, congratulating the coalition on many years of success. The Tobacco Prevention Leadership of ND Dept. of Health also came to the celebration. They were excited to meet everyone and to sit down with the local tobacco team following the celebration.

III. State Plan Updates/Workgroups

ND Tobacco Prevention Coordinators have been asked to participate in various workgroups that are focused on updating the State Plan. The groups are Policy, Youth, Coalition, Cessation & Health Communications. Locally, we are participating in sub-groups for workforce policy and multi-unit housing and school policy. MUH is continuing to look at ways to help individuals advocate for voluntary (stronger than state law) policy or a disclosure, if a property has units in the building that allow smoking. On the school subgroup, we are working on comprehensive tobacco-free school checklist criteria for K-12 and higher education. The ND School Board Association (NDSBA) recently updated their recommended comprehensive policy which was reviewed by coordinators.

After the New Year, we will start seeing ads with more emphasis on ND Quits. You may also see ads on television, in newspaper, and on radio with what are called 'Department of Justice Correction Statements' from the tobacco industry. These were mandated through the Master Settlement Agreement and require big tobacco to air prime time commercials with the truth about the harms of tobacco. The ads are not glamorous, but the messages will help shape the social norm.

The governor is interested in tobacco-free state grants. Additionally, there has been talk about the Governor requiring all state owned property to be tobacco-free. This would mean that any state-owned or lease-managed property would be tobacco-free, by executive order. It is encouraging to know that the Governor sees the benefit in this type of policy. It could help propel the behavioral health network into adopting tobacco cessation along with addiction treatment since many are state entities. The NDDoH also assessed the Governor's administration readiness to increase the price of tobacco. A conversation was started and the Governor seems supportive at this point.

IV. Tobacco Free North Dakota Memberships/ Annual Meeting

The Tobacco-Free ND annual meeting was yesterday, but we were not able to participate by phone. We will get an update next week from Heather via conference call. They are the arm of advocacy that allows direct conversation with those making policies; so membership is encouraged!

For more information or for membership, check out: www.tfnd.org/join-tfnd.

V. Member Sharing

Bethany – They have done a point-of-sale assessment in EGF and talked to the Police Chief who approached their City Council about increasing tobacco retailer license fees to help fund compliance checks, but they disapproved it at this time.

Jodi – Issues with students using e-cigarettes on campus. Twenty violations in last three years, but the punishment does not seem too harsh. Discussion followed.

VI. Next Meeting – January 9, 2017

VII. Upcoming Events/Observances

- Tobacco Coordinator Sites Training- ??January in Bismarck