

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, May 9th, 2017

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Grand Forks Public Health Department

Members Present: Haley Thorson, Kailee Dvorak, Sarah Odegard, Danae Grove and Keith Westerfield.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

II. Legislative Wrap-Up

Haley stated they received the final funding levels from NDDoH. State Aid for 2017-19 biennium is \$2 million and \$6.5 million for Tobacco Prevention and Control Grants to Local Public Health. It's close to what they were getting from the Center locally, but total funding is significantly reduced statewide. Another concern is, due to the nature of the funding sources, it is not sustainable and will probably be another battle in two years to secure continued funding.

Exciting news, the NDDoH will be requiring Local Public Health Units to contribute to the public education campaign (on a per-capita basis). It is great because we know that it is an important part of tobacco prevention and cessation. However, it means less money in-house to do those things that are vital to get our messages across locally. They are also continuing funding to support Tobacco-Free North Dakota, because cohesive advocacy across the state is important. The money cannot be spent on lobbying by TFND, but can be spent on advocacy to educate legislators on best practices, benefits of price increase, etc.

III. Upcoming Mental Health/Tobacco Use Training Opportunity (Free with CEU's Available!)

Kailee provided information on American Lung Association's upcoming training. Reba Mathern-Jacobson has been working with the behavioral health community across ND, addressing tobacco use within their facilities and clients they see. She contacted GFTFC this week to remind everyone that on May 24th there will be a free training available in Grand Forks on 'Tobacco Use and Recovery Among Individuals with Mental Illness or Addiction.' It will be presented by Dr. Jill Williams at UND's Medical School from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. If you or someone you know works with the behavioral health population, you are encouraged to attend. ALA has been working directly with Department of Human Services (DHS) to offer the same training at different DHS sites across the state. They hope to engage agencies and staff as to why it is important to address these populations on tobacco usage. See the link below for registration and information.

IV. Member Sharing

Danae talked about the Department of Defense (DoD) policy that went into effect last month. It's now required that base retail facilities charge a similar amount with taxes for tobacco products as local civilian retailers. Although here it only amounts to about a 25 cent per pack increase, Danae has gotten several new individuals wanting help to quit tobacco products. She is also thinking of starting a campaign on base to encourage cessation among young airmen (18-24 years old) who tend to be more concerned about cash flow than their health. It would give examples of, if you had quit (x) years or months ago, you could have bought this (item) with the money otherwise spent on tobacco. Danae also mentioned that the base is going to be switching MAJCOMs, which could increase

deployments and therefore stress potentially causing deployed personnel to pick up unhealthy habits, like tobacco use. Tobacco usage rates have gone down on base; in 2011, it was over 30 percent (for all type products), but now it is down to 15 percent! The smoking rate has gone down about nine percent, but chewing tobacco has stayed same.

Haley informed the group that the Grand Forks Tobacco-Free Coalition turns 25 this year! They would like to do something to celebrate in the summer or fall (maybe around the Great American Smoke-Out) and put together an event to show the successes they have accomplished. Haley also mentioned that the ND Public Health Association (NDPHA) Policy and Advocacy Committee are putting forth a Resolution of Support during the Dakota Conference in June. The NDPHA considers letters of support during their annual meetings, so the GFTFC drafted one that specifically references application of best practices in ND.

V. Next Meeting- June 13th, 2017 at 8am, Grand Forks Public Health, Conference Room 2

VI. Upcoming Events/Observances

- Tobacco Use and Recovery Among Individuals with Mental Illness or Addiction Training, May 24, 2017, UND Med School. Register at: http://action.lung.org/site/Calendar?view=Detail&id=114568&_ga=2.220860827.2057416239.1494000067-1437254044.1485363483
- World ‘No Tobacco Day’ – May 31, 2017 <http://www.who.int/tobacco/wntd/en/>
- ND Tobacco Prevention and Control Strategic Planning Meeting, July 27, 2017 - Bismarck