

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, August 9, 2016
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Members Present: Haley Thorson, Sarah Odegard, Kailee Dvorak, Bethany Brandvold, Betty Housey, Gail Halverson, Analee Hokkala, Liliya Martsynyuk and Keith Westerfield.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Haley reminded the group that the meeting minutes would be posted at www.tobaccobytes.com. This is a section, or mini-website if you will, of the BreatheND website devoted to Grand Forks Public Health Tobacco Prevention and the GF Tobacco Free Coalition.

II. Increasing the Price of Tobacco Educational Opportunities: Health Benefits; and Facts on Measure Components.

Haley reported there is no official update if the 22,000 signatures that were handed in to the Secretary of State's office last month have been verified.

The Legislative Special Session wrapped up and there were additional budget cuts for the state. Groups who have been impacted by the cuts now have a vested interest in the measure, such as; behavioral health, veterans and substance abuse prevention, as the measure would provide a source of funding to support their work.

III. Legislative Update: Comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program Funding; and State Budgets.

Haley, Kailee, and Sarah attended quarterly training in July at Fargo. Funding for the comprehensive tobacco prevention and control program (the Center) was discussed. The Center's funding passed by an initiated measure in 2008 and was protected for seven years (until December 2015), which means it is up for discussion in the legislative budget talks. Since the Center has been a good steward of the funds (through evidence-based best practices and spending at CDC-recommended levels), the Center's trust fund does contain roughly \$45.2 million with only one more payment to be deposited in April 2017. This trust fund would continue to support tobacco prevention efforts for approximately seven more years at CDC recommended funding levels even after the trust fund receives no more revenue. There are other trust funds for the state of ND that carry a balance, but the Center's trust fund is the one that has one remaining payment. A list of trust funds can be found on The Office on the North Dakota State Treasurer's website at: <http://www.nd.gov/treasurer/north-dakota-government-funds/>

Continued education on the successes of the program, both locally and statewide, as well as the importance of continued funding remains an important focus this upcoming legislative session.

IV. Member Sharing

Haley passed on that the Tobacco Prevention Program at GFPH appreciates all that the coalition members have done, and wanted to share the success stories which can be found on GF webpage on BreatheND.com (<http://www.breathend.com/publichealthunits/grand-forks-tobacco-free-coalition/>).

A few of the successes highlighted for 2015 include:

- Grand Forks County Tobacco Free Schools
- Grand Forks Tobacco Free Parks 1 year anniversary
- Update to UND's Tobacco Free Campus

Haley also shared the GFPHD Annual Report for 2015, which highlighted the GFTFC work with the Park Board to strengthen its parks tobacco-free policy.

(<http://www.grandforksgov.com/home/showdocument?id=13194>)

Kailee shared the Center responded to an open records request from the ND Petroleum Marketers Association.

Betty shared VCHC continues to see patients for tobacco cessation.

Bethany shared the Point of Sale inspections in Crookston have been completed. The results were good, and their next step is to go back to city leaders to establish a tobacco prevention policy.

Haley shared NDQuits has changed their logo (see at <https://ndquits.health.nd.gov/>). Old materials can continue to be utilized and some limited new materials are available for order

V. Next Meeting – September 13, 2016

VI. Upcoming Events/Observances

- November Election, November 8, 2016