

Tuesday, February 11th, 2020

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Grand Forks Public Health Conference Room 2

Members Present: Haley Thorson (GFPH), Kailee Dvorak (GFPH), Sarah Odegard (GFPH), Theresa Knox (GFPH), Richard Erdman (GFAFB), Andrea Anthony (NEHSC), Betty Housey (Spectra), Ann Landreville (UND Health & Wellness), Bethany Satrom (Polk County Public Health) and Heather Austin (TFND) (via call-in)

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Haley welcomed everyone and introductions were done. Reminder that meeting minutes are available on the BreatheND website at:

<https://www.breathend.com/publichealthunits/grand-forks-tobacco-free-coalition/GFTFCMinutes/>

II. **Interim Tax Committee Hearing Update-Heather Austin, TFND Executive Director**

Heather Austin (via phone) provided an update on the January interim tax committee hearing. Heather included a background on the committee hearings, an update on TFND involvement, the testimony and education at the committee hearing as well reviewed the draft bill (available at

<https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/interim/21-5092-02000-meeting-agenda.pdf>)

The draft bill does include 1) classification of e-cigarettes, 2) requires licensure, 3) mandates reporting of sales and inventory and 4) provides a tax on e-cigs at volume/mL. Heather emphasized that continued education and advocacy is needed. The next committee hearing is not yet scheduled but TFND is anticipating it will be within the next 2-3 months.

TFND continues to work with partners on preparation for the upcoming legislative session. This includes education and advocacy for increasing the price of tobacco, sustaining tobacco prevention funding, T21 and flavor restriction on the sales of tobacco products and preserving the smoke-free law.

III. **T21 Federal Law Discussion**

The federal T21 law is effective but currently is not being enforced at the federal level. There has been movement across the state of ND and in MN with local ordinance implementation of T21 laws, which allows for local authority and enforcement. The Grand Forks Tobacco Prevention has met with the GF City Attorney to discuss how implementation of a T21 law would look within Grand Forks City Code. Bethany shared that East Grand Forks had the 1st hearing on a T21 ordinance last Monday (2/30). She has been providing education on T21 within Polk County.

IV. **FDA Restrictions on Flavored E-Cigarettes and Loopholes Discussion**

Reviewed the FDA restrictions on flavored e-cigarettes and discussed the loopholes. Since the restrictions only apply to pod based products (except for tobacco and menthol flavors), there are several types of flavored e-cigarettes that remain on the market. Items such as Puff Bars (disposable flavored e-cig

product) are becoming popular with youth and younger adults. This emphasizes the importance of good definitions and policy.

V. Member Sharing

Sarah- GFPH provided education on vaping, EVALI and cessation resources to the Thompson SADD Chapter. The SADD Chapter is interested in having GFPH do a presentation on vaping to the Thompson School in March.

Betty- Spectra Health now has 5 total staff certified as a tobacco treatment specialist. There is one additional staff member that will be attending training in April.

Richard- The number of airmen and women who report using a vaping product continues to rise on the GF Air Force Base. They are currently advertising a tobacco cessation position on base that also addresses behavioral health. It can be found on usajobs.gov.

Ann- Sonja is working with a group of public health nursing students on a project that will focus on the perception of ENDS from children of UND faculty and staff.

VI. Next Meeting-03/10/2020

VII. Upcoming Events:

Through with Chew Week-2/17-2/21

Annual Nicotine Dependence Conference (Free to attend) -2/21, Fargo

Kick Butts Day-3/18