

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Grand Forks Public Health Conference Room 2

Members Present: Haley Thorson(GFPH), Kailee Dvorak(GFPH), Sonia Doulamis(UND), Richard Erdman (GF Air Force Base), Keith Westerfield (GFPH, Betty Housey (Spectra Health), Cindy Sevrerinson (NEHSC)and Bethany Satrom (Polk Co Public Health).

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley welcomed everyone and introductions were made. A light breakfast was offered.

II. ENDS Interim Study Selected

Previous attempts to increase the tobacco tax have failed during the last several legislative sessions. The legislature decided in 2019 to turn HB2355 it into an interim study instead. It was officially decided in late June the legislature would study taxing electronic tobacco products. Cigarettes are currently taxed per pack, while other products such as chewing tobacco are taxed based on weight. The interim committee will study all forms of taxing tobacco (percentage of wholesale, weight, etc) and decided if one is best and potentially draft a bill for the next legislative session. The first committee hearing on this issue is expected later this fall.

2019-2020 GFPH Tobacco Prevention Workplan Overview

Haley provided an overview of GFPH's Tobacco Prevention Program' goals and objectives. They focus on the four main CDC Tobacco Prevetion Goals: 1. Prevent Initiation, 2) Eliminate Exposure to SHS, 3) Increase Cessation and 4) Build and Maintain TP infrastructure. There will be a focus on engaging youth, compliance checks, protecting the smokefree law and increasing s smokefree and tobacco free policies, increasing cessation partners and promotion and advocating for policies.

III. Other General Updates

Tobacco 21: www.tobacco21.org is the website that highlights the movement of states or municipalities that have adopted laws or ordinances to increase the minimum legal sale age for all tobacco products. There are now 475 cities and counties across 29 states as well as several states entirely that have enacted T21 policies. GFTFC focuses on evidence-based practices, but 'T21' is a promising practice that has potential to reduce the initiation age of youths to tobacco products. It is also of note that Tobacco21 is also being supported by the tobacco industry in some instances. The City of San Francisco is currently considering a complete ban on the sale of electronic products. JUUL headquarters is currently located there.

IV. Member Sharing

Cindy – NEHSC is conducting a weekly tobacco education group, targeting clients that have the highest substance abuse. Behavioral health clients have a high incidence of tobacco use and are asked to reduce their use while they are clients of NEHSC. Cindy reiterates a greater chance for success of treatment for substance abuse when treated for all addictions, including tobacco.

Rich – Highlighted several cessation resources available to personnel on base but indicated the hurdle of getting individuals to ask for help and use these resources. Smoking is only allowed in designated areas on base, however, some think that since ENDS are not tobacco, they can use them in bathrooms, or their cars.

Sonia – Health and Wellness will be working with aviation students at UND, especially international students who more likely to use tobacco products, to raise tobacco cessation awareness. Also they will be educating athletes about the use of ENDS and how they can impact athletic performance.

Betty – Spectra Health (formerly Valley Community Health Center) currently has two certified tobacco treatment specialists, soon to be three after Betty completes her training shortly.

Bethany provided an update on her work with the City of Crookston to update their tobacco policies which passed in May. The City Administrator will offer tobacco cessation to interested workplaces, working with Riverview Health, who has a tobacco prevention coordinator on staff. She is also gearing up for the Polk County Fair, with a booth to educate on youth vaping. There will be a tobacco-free area at the fair (along with now two, breast-feeding areas). The Norman County Fair went tobacco-free this year. The Marshall County Fair will be smoke-free (but not tobacco-free).

Kailee and Haley will be attending the National Conference on Tobacco or Health in late August.

V. Next Meeting 8.13.2019

Upcoming Events

National Conference on Tobacco or Health – Minneapolis- 8/27-8/29

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.