

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Grand Forks Public Health Conference Room 2

Members Present: Haley Thorson(GFPH), Michelle Earl (Altru), Sonia Doulamis(UND), Betty Housey (Spectra), Andrea Anthony (NEHSC), Bethany Satrom (Polk County Public Health)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

II. Interim Taxation Committee Hearing on Taxing ENDS

The Interim Committee met on 9/24. Some Tobacco prevention partners were invited to present at part of the agenda for the day. GF Public Health compiled written testimony and presented via email to all committee members as well as submitted it to the committee clerk for submission to the official record.

Representative Matt Eidson and Senator Curt Kreun from the Grand Forks Area are on the committee. Senator Kreun reached out via email following the hearing to inform us that no decisions had been made and the committee heard from both TP advocates as well as representatives from the vaping industry. He thanked GFPH for the vast array of information on taxing ENDS from other states. He anticipated the committee would not hear this topic again until after the holidays.

III. ND Dept of Health "Health Alert Network" Webcast on Vaping Related Illness

On 9/17, the ND Dept of Health hosted a video conference for clinicians and public health staff regarding the recent surge in pulmonary illness related to vaping. Dr. Karol Kremens, a pulmonologist from Essentia in Fargo provided clinical detail of some of the vaping associated illnesses to date. The Office of the State Epidemiologist also provided information about how to report suspect cases and the tracking of cases so far in ND. To view and archive of the webcast, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVKwAa7vouE> Clinicians who suspect they may have a case of vaping associated illness to report can call 866-207-2880. The webcast was shared with the GF Board of Health, Health Officer, Dr. Joel Walz.

IV. Update from the 10/3 Youth Action Summit

Haley and Kailee were able to attend the day-long Youth Action Summit in Fargo on 10/3. Due to unforeseen circumstances the GF Youth Commission Coordinator was unable to attend, so Haley and Kailee mentored 5 student members of the Grand Forks Youth Commission at the Youth Summit. They learned about best-practice strategies to prevent and reduce tobacco use as well as how to engage and talk with policymakers. The Youth Commission is interested in using the knowledge gained from the Summit for an upcoming YC project.

V. GF Public Schools/GF Public Health Collaboration on Vaping Education

Haley and Kailee met with GFPS to work on updates to vaping information that was sent to all GFPS families last October. The schools were looking to do a

second installment this year and requested the expertise of GF Public Health Tobacco Prevention Staff. A letter and resources will be sent to all families within the district and the information will also be shared through all wide-spread contact channels that the district uses to communicate with parents/families.

VI. Member sharing

Michelle- reminded the group that there is still availability in attending the upcoming Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Conference this Friday hosted by Altru and Spectra Health. Email Michelle if you wish to register. They will be monitoring the weather to make a decision on postponement. Altru also received a Lung Cancer Screen Grant from the ND Cancer Coalition. Michelle will also be presenting at the National Respiratory Therapist Convention in New Orleans in a few weeks, highlighting Altru's systematic success with Tobacco Use Assessment.

Betty-shared Spectra will be up to 4 Tobacco Treatment Specialists when the 2 who are in Bismarck return from training.

Andrea- is a nurse with Northeast Human Service Center and will be taking Cindy's place on the coalition. Her email is aanthony@nd.gov.

Bethany-continues to work with schools on tobacco related policies and vaping education through the SHIP grant.

VII. Next Meeting 11.12.2019

Upcoming Events

Tobacco Prevention Partners Meeting – Bismarck (10/23-10/24)

Recovery Reinvented – Bismarck (11/12) www.recoveryreinvented.com

Great American Smokeout – (11/21) www.cancer.org

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.