

Minutes



Tuesday, December 11th, 2018
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Haley Thorson, Kailee Dvorak, Sarah Odegard, Leanne Kilzer, Debbie Swanson, & Keith Westerfield

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley welcomed everyone.

II. Legislative Breakfast Recap and Upcoming Session Updates

Grand Forks Public Health hosted a Legislative Breakfast on November 20th. We had engaged Legislators attend, including Senator JoNeil Bakke, Senator Scott Meyer, Senator Curt Kreun, and Representative Steve Vetter. Mary Adams reached out to Debbie and will plan a meeting in the near future. Haley presented the Legislators with information related to the health impacts of increasing the price of tobacco products. There was very good feedback and conversations from those in attendance.

The last Legislative Session saw the Center defunded, with the money distributed back to the NDDoH. We hope to maintain level funding instead of more cuts and will be tracking bills and advocating as necessary. There is already a portion of the grant funds that related specifically to media, cut in the Governor's budget.

No new information on the draft tobacco tax bill. This bill would propose a \$1.50 tax increase and put the total tax at \$1.94. A separate bill may also be drafted for a tax structure for getting taxes on electronic cigarette products (which are currently not taxed at all), if the initial tobacco tax bill does not gain support. Tobacco-Free ND is still taking signed resolutions of support from organizations; Tobacco price increase is a Best Practice to keep kids from starting, and to help people to quit.

III. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting

Haley, Kailee, and Sarah attended the annual APHA meeting, the second week of November in San Diego. Several sessions focused on recreational/medicinal marijuana; utilizing tobacco prevention success and processes to address the legal aspect of recreational marijuana and its health impact. Smoking marijuana is becoming less common, with nowadays being vaped using an electronic nicotine delivery system. One-third of high schoolers in the U.S. have vaped using cannabis oil, which means they are using an illegal substance since they are under the age to legally purchase recreational marijuana (in their state). Studies show that 70% of marijuana smokers also smoke tobacco; and those that smoke tobacco are more likely to try marijuana.

IV. Member Sharing

Haley – Public Health received a grant from NDDoH, however, the money came from the ND Dept. of Health and Human Services, who has a fiscal responsibility to maintain tobacco retail compliance in communities. The grant of \$9,000 will fund 28 local tobacco retailer compliance checks. It was noted that makers of Juul has pulled flavors and not selling them to retailers where minors are allowed (the FDA was going to do this anyways, and retailers can purchase elsewhere). Also, Ottertail County in MN passed Tobacco 21 ordinance, changing the legal minimum purchase age to 21.

LeAnn – Jackie no longer at Altru doing the lung cancer screenings, so currently it is up to client's provider, but some doctors do not want to do it.

Debbie – She will be in Bismarck in April, supporting legislation bills for local public health.

V.Next Meeting—1/8/19

VI.Upcoming Events:

- 66th ND Legislative Assembly begins, January 3rd, Bismarck
- Tobacco Free ND Annual Meeting and Banquet, January 7th, Bismarck
- Tobacco Prevention Coordinator Meeting, October 23rd – 24th, Bismarck

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.