

Minutes



Tuesday, February 12th, 2019
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Haley Thorson, Sarah Odegard, Betty Housey, Students: Kelsey Bohm, Ethel Bame & Alexis Gigstad

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley welcomed everyone and introductions were done.

II. Legislative Session Updates

There have been many tobacco related bills introduced this session. Most are organic (not organized by State or National advocacy groups) including: SB 2137 which was known as the “Cigar bar bill” otherwise by tobacco prevention advocates as the “Tobacco bar bill” since language was loosely written defining “premium” tobacco products that could be used indoors at designated “Cigar” bars and lounges. Thankfully, through many emails from advocates and conversations with legislators, the bill was voted down last week, 17 yays to 30 nays.

SB 1236 (increase minimum sales age of tobacco products to 19) and SB 1274 (disallow smoking in vehicles with children under age 9) were quickly defeated. These two were bills we did not know about and were unable to give input on. We would hope that legislators would reach out to find the best information and scientific backing for their choices on the bill content and language.

There have also been a few different bills related to taxing of cigarettes and e-liquid. SB 1450, HB 1495 and HB 1386 were all related to taxing of tobacco products and all have failed. The bill that TFND brought forth to increase the price of cigarettes and e-cig products, SB2355 was passed in the Senate, but was houghoused into becoming a study on the taxation of e-liquids. TFND is hopeful that this study may yield a tobacco tax in the next session by allowing for more education of lawmakers.

SB2257, a bill to allow for an agreement between Native Tribes and the Governor to work out tobacco tax agreements outside of session. This would allow for tobacco products on reservations to be taxed at a similar rate as the rest of the state.

One bill, HB 1495, related to e-liquid flavor restrictions was passed, however it was stripped of most of the language and just causes a penalty for flavored e-liquid to be sold to minors. (which is already illegal)

III. Member Sharing

Betty- VCHC received the Million Hearts grant and will train some new tobacco treatment specialists with the funds. They also plan to use funding for “bridge” nicotine replacement therapy. They are hoping to make a big impact on a population that uses tobacco at higher rates than the general population.

Denae- The base has resolved some issues with their designated smoking areas being in compliance. They are hiring a new Wellness Coordinator, hoping to have them by March.

Sarah- Giving Hearts Day is on Valentines this year, February 14th. Tobacco Free ND is on the list of qualified non-profits, so if you would like to become a new member or renew your annual dues, it's a great day to do it!

IV.Next Meeting—3/12/19

V.Upcoming Events:

Giving Hearts Day- February 14 (Please consider a donation to Tobacco Free North Dakota! Donations will be matched and allow for continued tobacco prevention advocacy work! For more information, please visit www.givingheartsday.org. **You can actually go on ahead of time and “schedule” your donation today! Super easy!

Through With Chew Week-February 18-22 ND

Legislative Crossover-February 22nd

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.