

Minutes



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

Members Present: Haley Thorson, Kailee Dvorak, Sarah Odegard, LeAnne Kilzer, Michelle Earl, Betty Housey and Keith Westerfield

Meeting Agenda:

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Legislative Session Updates
3. Member Sharing

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley welcomed everyone and introductions were done.

II. Legislative Session Updates

This year's legislative session is wrapping up. The appropriation bills are usually saved for last. We had started with 15 bills that were being tracked at the beginning of the session, and now left with just two bills. One bill is SB 1477 regarding selling of flavored e-liquid nicotine products to youth (although it is already illegal to do this in ND); which passed the house and senate, and would increase fines to \$500 minimum (per product) of each e-liquid products sold to minors. These products are not defined as tobacco products in all of the state. An amendment was brought forth to this bill in committee to classify electronic nicotine products as tobacco products and requiring a state license to sell these products. TFND was working with legislators to get this amendment added in committee and it was pushed off to the conference committee which never met so the amendments were not brought forth for a vote.

The other bill was for the HB 1004, the NDDoH Budget Bill, which funds our program. The local public health portion did not change, but the media component was reduced. It is expected to move through without any problems.

There was a heavy presence of Juul lobbyists at the legislature this year (a large portion of Juul has been purchased by a big tobacco company). However, they testified in support of Senate Bill 1477. Juul had stated that they are invested in figuring out how to keep youth from using their products; but also saying that they want to eliminate combustible cigarettes by having smokers switch to Juul. Their products have not been approved by the FDA as a tobacco cessation device; therefore we cannot recommend using them. Juul is one of the newest electronic tobacco products, and by the end of 2018, Juul owned 78 percent of the market share of all electronic nicotine products!

The ENDS Summit will be in Bismarck on May 8th and 9th. Stan Glantz, who is well-known in the tobacco prevention world, will be a keynote speaker. Our tobacco prevention team will be attending, and invite any coalition member to come along also.

The Annual Nicotine Dependence Conference put on by the Mayo Clinic on May 20th-21st. The Mayo Clinic, who train the tobacco treatment specialists, are now talking about the health risks, role, and effectiveness of e-cigs compared to medication; and how electronic nicotine products have now become a public health threat.

III.Member Sharing

Haley – We will be writing our next grant for the new fiscal year. We are working with behavioral health, especially Northeast Human Services. With their new tobacco free grounds policy and training of Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialists, they want to focus on cessation by helping their clients who use tobacco at a higher rate than the general population.

Also she will be presenting at the National Association of Local Board of Health annual conference in August in Denver, CO; on 'Past Policy Successes with Local BOH Support'. Tobacco use rates drop sharply when local tobacco policies are implemented; and local policies start with the strategic plan of gaining support from our local BOH.

Michelle – Chosen to speak at the National Respiratory Convention in New Orleans in November, to talk about their tobacco cessation efforts at Altru. They will also host a Tobacco Education Day in October or November.

Betty – Two nurses just came back from TTS training in Bismarck at the beginning of April. However, VCHC is short-staff due to two nurses recently quitting (but will be hiring one in May). They are also trying to become a Level One addiction service facility.

LeAnn – As part of their Cancer Committee, they are looking at sponsoring a prevention activity at a school, such as regarding e-cigs and tobacco prevention. They would also measure the effectiveness of this, perhaps by seeing how many students would pledge not to use tobacco products. Altru has a new Director of Oncology, Georgia Smith, who has a lot of policies experience.

Kailee – Update on Frank White's presentations that focused on e-cigs and addiction. NDDoH staff had attended one of his presentations in Bismarck, and they did not have any concerns with what he had presented. He however, is not funded by NDDoH, UND, nor GFPHD. 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.

IV.Next Meeting—5/14/19

V.Upcoming Events:

3/20 -Kick Butts Day

4/30 -Final Day of the ND Legislature-Bismarck, ND

5/8-5/9 -Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) Summit- Bismarck, ND

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

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.