

Minutes



Tuesday, August 14th, 2018
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Present: Haley Thorson, Kailee Dvorak, Sarah Odegard, Jodi Ramberg, Leanne Kilzer, and Denae Grove, Bethany Satrom & Keith Westerfield

I. Welcome and Introductions

Haley welcomed all and introductions were done.

II. “Project 19” Updates

Tobacco-Free ND are still working with the state’s law center to draft a bill for an increase in tobacco tax. They still are working on establishing a bill sponsor and hope to present it as a bill rather than initiated measure. The bill would seek a tax increase on all tobacco products including electronic nicotine devices, which are only currently taxed by a low sales tax instead of tobacco tax. There has been some public attention to the proposal, but not too much.

‘Tobacconomics’ emphasizes the financial benefits of increasing tobacco tax. Since 2005, 48 states have increased their taxes on tobacco products. Wholesalers, the tobacco industry, and retailers have all increased their prices over time; even the federal government has increased their tax, while ND has been 44 cents since 1993 and still carries the burden of increased health care costs associated with tobacco. Montana and South Dakota have ballot initiatives this fall to increase their tobacco tax. If ND increased their tobacco tax by \$1.50 (to \$1.94), the annual revenue generated would be \$50 million.

III. Legislative Breakfast

GFPHD and the GFTFC, for the past few years has organized a breakfast for legislative members. It will take place at GFPHD, however no specific date has been set yet. Invites will be sent out to all state legislators’ right after the November 6th election. GF City Council members are usually invited also because what we do in GF impacts what happens at the state since items are passed locally before the going to the state. Tobacco coalition members are encouraged to attend. It’s a great opportunity to introduce yourself and what agency you represent. It would show them that many agencies are interested in what happens at the legislature and that we are connected to the community.

IV. Member Sharing

Haley – GFPHD has been involved with the ‘Rally for Recovery,’ which is important because of the momentum in the behavioral health community to start including tobacco use assessment and treatment. They are partnering with behavioral health providers to help assist with the integration of that piece of tobacco prevention, knowing that population is at increased risk of tobacco use. This year it is on Thursday, September 13th.

Kailee – Attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on the new ‘LaGrave on First,’ a 42-unit building for the chronically homeless that the GFPHD has done some outreach for. It is covered by the GF Housing policy, which means it is a tobacco-free facility. Residents will have access to services on the first floor. For more info, check out: www.gfha.org/housing-first.html. Kailee also talked about being contacted by Spectre Management, who manages the Alerus Center now, about the tobacco policy; and possible variance concerning no re-

admission during events for smoking. There is no variance to this policy, and it would have an impact on social norms. Also, a Juul presentation can be made to providers if needed.

Bethany – Working on Polk County’s tobacco ordinance that has not been updated since 1998, giving policy suggestions to the commissioners (such as, minimum clerk age to sell); also an indoor clean air policy that includes e-cigs since the current state legislature does not cover everywhere. Hope to have support during meetings with commissioners.

LeAnn – On September 12th, Altru will be having a free prostate cancer screening that they do every year (call or go online to sign up). September 15th will be the ‘Greater GF Relay for Life,’ and October 17th is Altru’s ‘Pretty in Pink’ breast cancer celebration, from 6-8 pm. Bad news, Jackie Roberts, the sole provider of lung cancer screening is leaving the cancer center after over 15 years. Altru though is thinking of possibly providing free screenings during Lung Cancer Awareness month in November.

Jodi – Every three years, UND reviews its tobacco policy, and Jodi was asked to review it. Its e-cig definition was outdated, and she updated it using the model policy from the Tobacco-Free ND site for now because she heard the ND Higher Education Consortium and Substance Abuse Prevention Program is hoping to do a state-wide policy.

Denae – On base there designated tobacco areas (DTA) that smoking is allowed. Some offices have been moved around recently so now the DTA’s are being reviewed and potentially removed.

V.Next Meeting—9.11.18

VI.Upcoming Events:

- 6th Annual Rally for Recovery, September 13th, 4-8pm, GF Town Square
- Tobacco Prevention Coordinator Meeting, October 23rd – 24th, Bismarck
- Election Day, November 6th
- GFPHD Legislative Breakfast, details TBA
- 66th ND Legislative Assembly begins, January 3rd, 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.