

**Tobacco and Alcohol Coalition Meeting**  
Frederick County Health Department/ Virtual Format  
November 5, 2020  
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**MINUTES:**

Members present: Suzanne DeVore-Blair (BGCF), Ofc. Brian Donovan (TPD), Danielle Lane (FCHD-WIC), Diane McIntyre (FCPS), Brian Griffin (FCPS), Wayne Dorsey (SOS Safe Ride), Laura LaMotte (FCHD), Esther Slack-Metellus (AACF), PJ Miller (FCHD), and Blair Innis (LRC).

1. Approval of Minutes:
  - a. The minutes from the September 3, 2020 meeting were approved.
  
2. Tobacco and Alcohol Merchant Education/Enforcement Update
  - a. Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance checks are currently on hold until January.
  - b. Thurmont PD has agreed to conduct both alcohol and tobacco checks and the Maryland State Police will conduct alcohol compliance checks.
  - c. Tobacco Enforcement Designee Position Update:
    - i. The Enforcement Designee position is currently vacant.
    - ii. This position is responsible for conducting tobacco merchant compliance checks and education visits.
    - iii. The position was posted and interviews were conducted. Further updates will be provided as they become available.
  - d. Merchant Education Update:
    - i. There are currently 233 tobacco licensees in Frederick County, the goal is to educate each licensee regarding responsible tobacco sales before compliance checks resume. FCHD has currently educated 96 merchants.
    - ii. FCHD is partnering with two local organizations to assist with these education efforts by offering mini-grants.
    - iii. Living Well Youth Works (LWYW) was awarded one of these mini-grants. They are tasked with educating 50 merchants within the City of Frederick and they are planning to start shortly.
    - iv. FCHD has one more community mini-grants to be awarded to conduct visits to tobacco merchants to provide education regarding the laws related to tobacco sales, including e-cigarettes.
    - v. The mini-grant announcement is posted on the FCHD website, see link: <http://health.frederickcountymd.gov/557/Merchant-Sales-Compliance-Initiative>
    - vi. The deadline for application for this mini-grant is Monday, November 23, 2020.
  
3. FY21 Tobacco and Alcohol Program Update
  - a. Educational presentations are now offered in a virtual format, please feel free to contact us if you have the need for a presentation for your organization.

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## 4. Tobacco Cessation Update

- a. Cessation services are continuing. The classes are now offered virtually or support is available by phone. Registration for these classes is now available online (see link below).
- b. Nicotine Replace Therapy (NRT) is available and NRT pick-up is being offered to clients with a drive-through style option.
- c. This link has information about our tobacco program, resources and online registration where clients can sign-up for services. PJ Miller's contact information is also on this page. <https://health.frederickcountymd.gov/558/Tobacco-Prevention-and-Cessation-Program>

## 5. Upcoming Events

- a. Great American Smokeout (November 19<sup>th</sup>)
  - i. The Great American Smokeout is on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. This event was created by the American Cancer Society as a day to encourage individuals to quit smoking.
  - ii. FCHD will be promoting our Smoking Cessation services via social media ads through the FCHD Facebook page.
  - iii. A press release to promote this event and our Cessation services will be issued as well.
- b. A Way Forward Campaign (FCHD)
  - i. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant emotional stress for many individuals, this increase in stress can lead to increased alcohol and drug use, in addition to depression, increased trauma and thoughts of suicide.
  - ii. In response, our BHS division created a campaign called "A Way Forward Together" ([www.awayforwardtogether.org](http://www.awayforwardtogether.org)) to offer support to those in need.
  - iii. The campaign includes PSA's, billboards and social media ads. Hard copies of the campaign materials are also available for distribution.

## 6. Round Robin/Updates from Coalition Members

- a. Update from Ofc. Brian Donovan (Thurmont Police Department)
  - i. Planning to conduct compliance checks after January.
- b. Update from Wayne Dorsey (SOS Safe Ride)
  - i. Pump your breaks booth going well despite COVID-19.
- c. Update from Suzanne DeVore-Blair (BGCFB)
  - i. They currently have 24 children (since March due to COVID protocol).
  - ii. Opening Madison Street location that will serve an additional 13 children.

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- d. Update from Brian Griffin (FCPS)
  - i. 2<sup>nd</sup> term starts next week.
  - ii. INSPIRE in the final stages of approval, M.O.U. just needs to be finalized. This curriculum will be used for tobacco violations in Middle and High School for now. Due to lack of instruction time for Health curriculums it will not be implemented for all students until in-person learning continues.

### **Next Coalition Meeting:**

Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm (Meeting will be held virtually using Microsoft Teams)