

Tobacco and Alcohol Coalition Meeting

Virtual Format/Microsoft Teams

January 7, 2021

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

MINUTES:

Members present: Elizabeth Chung (AACF), Todd Crum (FCHD- BHS), Jessica Dayal (FCHD- CHS), Ofc. Brian Donovan (TPD), Dora Ducan (AACF), Brian Griffin (FCPS), Hillary Gross (FCHD- BHS), Blair Innis (LRC), Clifton Jackson (LWYW), Julie Kwedar (MHSO), Laura LaMotte (FCHD- BHS), Danielle Lane (FCHD-WIC), Julinda Massey (MDH), Diane McIntyre (FCPS), Esther Slack-Metellus (AACF), PJ Miller (FCHD- BHS), Marge Rosensweig (RMA), Elly Sedita (AACF), Nate Smith (FCHD- BHS), and Tina Williams (MHSO).

1. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. The minutes from the November 5, 2020 meeting were approved.
2. Tobacco and Alcohol Program Update
 - a. Tobacco Merchant Enforcement/Education
 - b. Merchant Enforcement
 - i. Alcohol and Tobacco compliance checks are currently on hold.
 - ii. Thurmont PD has agreed to conduct both alcohol and tobacco checks as they can. They have also agreed to assist with the education of 11 tobacco merchants in their jurisdiction.
 - iii. The Tobacco Enforcement Designee position for the FCHD is currently vacant, the hiring process for this position has been placed on hold until compliance checks can safely resume.
 - c. Merchant Education
 - i. There are currently 233 tobacco licensees in Frederick County, our goal is to educate each licensee regarding responsible tobacco sales before compliance checks resume.
 - ii. As of today, program staff educated a total of 183 merchants. Each merchant was provided information on current Maryland tobacco sales laws, fines, and merchant education resources from the NoTobaccoSalesToMinors.org website.
 - iii. 50 of these tobacco merchants were educated by our community partner Living Well Youth Works organization. 11 merchants were educated by Thurmont PD.
 - iv. The remaining 50 merchants will be educated within the upcoming months.
 - d. Tobacco Cessation Program
 - i. Since July 1, 2020, we have seen 29 participants with 57 interactions in total.
 - ii. Program staff distributed 38 boxes of patches, 28 boxes of lozenges, and 9 boxes of gum.
 - iii. The cessation program continues over the phone and virtually for participants with modified pick-up due to current health regulations.

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- e. Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG)- Alcohol Update
 - i. Maryland Strategic Prevention Framework (MSPF2) - We recently received notice that funding for this project will be extended until June 30, 2021. Plan to continue social media campaign and work with Frederick County Liquor Board to continue to support efforts for alcohol merchant education.
 - ii. Alcohol Compliance efforts – with the loss of MSPF2 funding, the SABG was able to absorb some of the alcohol compliance efforts previously provided for by MSPF2. Compliance checks are on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions.
 - iii. Medicine Misuse Prevention – our social media messaging to prevent the non-medical use of prescription (and over-the-counter) medicines continues through our StayInTheKnow Facebook, Twitter and Instagram platforms.
 - iv. Underage Drinking – social media messaging continues through our social media platforms.
 - v. Our StayInTheKnow.org website is back up and running and is currently being maintained by our FCG, IIT Division.

- 3. Maryland Tobacco Legislation Session 2021 Update (presented by Blair Innis- Legal Resource Center)
 - a. *HB732 Taxation Veto Override (2020)- Tobacco Tax, Sales and Use Tax, and Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax*
 - i. Creates tax on ESDs at 12% of the taxable price and 60% of the taxable price for vaping liquid containers of 5 ml or less
 - ii. Increases cigarette tax on packs of 20 to \$3.75/pack
 - iii. Increases other tobacco products (OTP) tax to 53% of the wholesale price
 - iv. Tax on cigars remains 70% of the wholesale price
 - v. Tax on premium cigars remains 15% of the wholesale price
 - vi. Tax on pipe tobacco remains 30% of the wholesale price
 - b. *Senate Bill 177/House Bill 134: Business Regulation - Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition*
 - i. This bill would prohibit the manufacturing, shipping, importing, or selling into or within the State flavored tobacco products
 - ii. A person that violates certain cigarette license requirements is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or both
 - iii. SB hearing Thursday, January 28 @ 1:00 Finance Building
 - c. *Senate Bill 239: St. Mary's County - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Prohibition on Possession of Tobacco Products by Minors*
 - i. Prohibits a minor from possessing a tobacco product in a school building or on school grounds in St. Mary's County
 - ii. Penalties:
 - 1. First violation: tobacco cessation program

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2. Second violation: civil penalty up to \$50
 3. Third and subsequent violations: civil penalty up to \$100 per violation
 - iii. Hearing Wednesday, January 20 @ 3:00 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
 - d. *Senate Bill 273: Electronic Smoking Device Regulation Act of 2021*
 - i. Prohibits the sale of ESDs by anyone but vape shop vendors who exclusively sell ESDs and related items (no more ESD retailers) on the premises of the licensee's place of business
 - ii. All vape shop vendors must be licensed under Bus. Reg. 16 or 16.5 to manufacture, distribute, or sell ESDs
 - iii. Vape shop vendors pay license fee to local health department for enforcement (fee set by MDH)
 - iv. ESD manufacturer can no longer sell direct to consumer
 - v. No flavored disposable vapes (including menthol)
 - vi. Requires electronic scanning of IDs at the register
 - vii. Adds ESDs to Clean Indoor Air Act
 - viii. No one under 21 may enter the vape shop (possibly)
4. 2020 Maryland Young Adult Survey (MYSA) Results (presented by Marge Rosensweig-FCHD Program Evaluator)
- a. The Maryland Young Adult Survey on Alcohol (MYSA) was developed and administered by the Behavioral Health Research Team (BHRT) at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. The survey was administered in 2016, 2018, and 2020.
 - b. The purpose of the survey is to assess the extent to which Maryland Strategic Framework (MSPF) strategies had a positive impact on anticipated long term outcomes of:
 - i. Past 30-day reduction in alcohol use among 18-20 year olds (we are also focusing on 15-18 year olds but use YRBS data)
 - ii. Past 30-day reduction in binge drinking among 18-20 year olds and 21-25 year olds with the secondary purpose to help guide future prevention strategies
 - c. Data Limitations:
 - i. Data not collected on regular (i.e., every other year, same time of year) schedule
 - ii. Data not necessarily reflective of the entire county
 - iii. Data not collected in a manner linked to strategies
 - iv. Response options are not always consistent
 - d. Number and age of respondents:
 - i. Reasonable number of respondents according to BHRT
 - ii. Similar in 2016 and 2018; different in 2020—unsure of the reason for this difference
 - iii. Different N for different questions. Denominator for aggregating/analyzing most is the number that responded to the question

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- iv. Past 30-day alcohol use N is number who acknowledged/N of surveys
- e. Key data points:
 - i. Age of first drink
 - 1. While we are not tracking for MSPF outcomes, this is useful when targeting prevention strategies. Chart clearly shows drink initiation primarily between ages 15-18, followed by 13-14 year olds.
 - 2. This suggests that primary prevention initiatives, focusing perhaps on the development of assets (e.g., decision-making, impulse control, etc.) would be appropriate for youth before age 13.
 - ii. Peer Pressure
 - 1. Respondents assert that their peers are more likely to expect them to drink than are their friends
 - iii. Responsible Drinking Behaviors
 - 1. Data indicate improvement from pre-initiative to September 2020—after 3 years of implementation, with 21-25 year olds showing more improvement than 18-20 year olds.
 - 2. As positive as these data appear, they do not stand alone. Comparing data from year to year provides a piece of the puzzle. Context is key.
 - 3. Important to also gather qualitative data (through observations, focus groups for example).
 - 4. Need to consider the expected changes in the drinking behaviors of all target population members as a result of COVID restrictions.
- f. Anticipated outcomes (MSPF outcomes for 5-year initiative)
 - i. Reduction in past 30-day alcohol use among 18-20 year olds
 - 1. Chart indicates that 18-20 year olds reported reduced past 30-day alcohol use, from 76.4% in 2016 to 38.9% in 2020.
 - 2. On the other hand, past 30-day use among 21-25 year olds increased, from 19.6% in 2016 to 32.6% in 2020. We have to consider the impacts of COVID restrictions on this data.
 - ii. Reduction in past 30-day binge drinking among 18-25 year olds
 - 1. Downward trends in past 30-day alcohol use are mirrored by similar reductions in past 30-day binge drinking, with reductions among both 18-20 year olds (from 39.6% to 25.9%) and 21-25 year olds (from 46.4% to 30.3%). Interpreting these data is complicated somewhat because response options differed from year to year. In 2016, respondents could choose 0, 1-5, >5 options; in 2016 and 2020, options were 0, 1-5, 6-30.
 - 2. As for how frequently respondents binged, data are similarly impressive with reductions in the number of days of this behavior.
 - 3. As the target population's binge drinking behavior appears to have "improved" between 2016 and 2020, they reported an increased perception of the risk of binge drinking once/twice/week.

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5. Upcoming Events/Announcements

- a. MD Quit's 15th Best Practice Conference
 - i. Meeting dates are Jan. 27 & Jan. 28 from 1 pm to 4:15 pm
 - ii. The meeting will be held via Zoom; more information will be distributed once it is received.
- b. [A Way Forward Together Campaign- Teens](#) (FCHD/FCPS)
 - i. FCPS and the FCHD have partnered on [A Way Forward Together Campaign- Teens](#), a campaign focused on mental health resources available to students struggling with anxiety or depression.
 - ii. This is an addition to the "A Way Forward Together" campaign created by FCHD which provides information and resources on mental health and substance use to assist during this pandemic.

6. Round Robin/Updates from Coalition Members

- a. Update from Ofc. Brian Donovan (Thurmont Police Department)
 - i. Restrictions placed on the department due to COVID, compliance checks are currently on hold
- b. Update from Jessica Dayal (FCHD- CHS, Safe Kids Frederick)
 - i. Car seat program (infant and convertible seats)
 - ii. Provide bicycle helmets to Title I schools
 - iii. Discuss drunk and distracted driving with parents
- c. Update from Elizabeth Chung (Asian American Center of Frederick- AACF)
 - i. Have programs working with low-income families and ACES
 - ii. Will continue to work on substance abuse prevention and opioid education virtually
- d. Update from Brian Griffin (Frederick County Public Schools- FCPS)
 - i. MOU between ASPIRE and FCPS has been signed by all parties
 - ii. Started training on how to implement in schools
 - iii. Will work with the middle school and high school directors to start identifying school based administrators that can start engaging students
- e. Update from Julie Kwedar (MD Highway Safety Office)
 - i. MDOT MVA's Highway Safety Office launched an overarching safety campaign called [Be the Driver](#). They have also created a safety campaign for what to do

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during a roadside emergency. It addresses areas of highway safety concerns as identified in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), including Occupant Protection, Aggressive Driving, Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, Motorcycle Safety, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety, and focuses on the common contributing factors of fatal and serious injury crashes. The links to the tool kits for the campaign materials are listed below. Please feel free to post these on your social media webpages and share with your partners.

<https://zerodeathsmd.gov/resources/seat-belt-resources/>

<https://zerodeathsmd.gov/resources/impaired-driving-resources/>

<https://zerodeathsmd.gov/resources/distracted-driving-resources/>

<https://zerodeathsmd.gov/roadsidesafety/>

- ii. *MHSO Grant*- applicants for FFY 2022 opens on Jan 11th and closes on March 12th. If you or any of your partners are you looking for ways to fund Highway Safety projects for educational and or outreach projects that address traffic safety; reach out to MHSO.
- iii. *MHSO Highway Safety Series*- The Maryland Highway Safety Office is hosting Highway Safety Seminars. If you are interested in being a presenter by sharing your agency's program, research, and other initiatives that will help Maryland reach zero fatalities and serious injuries please contact Natisha Galloway at ngalloway@mdot.maryland.gov to schedule your presentation or to receive more information.

Next Coalition Meeting:

Thursday, March 4th at 3:00 pm (Meeting will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams)