

# Tobacco and Alcohol Coalition Meeting

Virtual Format/Microsoft Teams

May 6, 2021

3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

## MINUTES:

Members present: Shanna Cline (FHH), Todd Crum (FCHD- BHS), Wayne Dorsey (SOS Safe Ride), Brian Griffin (FCPS), Hillary Gross (FCHD- BHS), Blair Innis (LRC), Diyora Isrolova (AACF), Laura LaMotte (FCHD- BHS), Danielle Lane (FCHD- WIC), Robert Lind (FCLB), Diane McIntyre (FCPS), Thurmond Maynard (Hood), PJ Miller (FCHD- BHS), Marge Rosensweig (RMA), Brooke Torton (LRC), Tina Williams (MHSO).

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. The minutes from the March 4, 2021 meeting were approved.
  
2. Round Robin/Updates from Coalition Members
  - a. Update from Shanna Cline (Frederick Health Hospital- FHH)
    - i. Currently unable to continue with outpatient cessation due to COVID precautions.
    - ii. Planning for a cessation class to begin on Tuesday (5/11).
    - iii. Classes have been moved to the Stockman Cancer Institute and will be held from 4:30-5:30 pm.
    - iv. Group will be capped at 10 people with extra cleaning measures in place before and after.
    - v. In communication with the Thoracic Surgeon and physician assistant about cessation options for patients including over-the-counter medication and prescription options.
  
  - b. Update from Diyora Isrolova (Asian American Center of Frederick- AACF)
    - i. AACF was awarded two of the tobacco mini-grants to provide tobacco merchant education and youth tobacco education.
    - ii. Completed 50 educational visits to tobacco merchants.
    - iii. Provided tobacco education through various methods including virtual and in-person events to youth.
    - iv. AACF had a poster presentation during lunchtime for both Cohort A & B at Monocacy Middle School.
    - v. AACF had a table with tobacco education at the opening of the new South County YMCA opening day event.
  
  - c. Update from Brian Griffin (Frederick County Public Schools- FCPS)
    - i. The primary focus has been on getting students back in the classroom for the remainder of the year.
    - ii. Planning for next school year with proper protocols for safety.

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- d. Update from Tina Williams (MD Highway Safety Office- MHSO)
    - i. The May Social Media Toolkit which has Impaired Driving, Speed and Aggressive Driving, Distracted Driving and Occupant Protection information will be shared with coalition members.
  - e. Update from Wayne Dorsey (SOS Safe Ride)
    - i. SOS Safe Ride has given 15,000 safe rides since starting in 2016.
    - ii. Starting June 1<sup>st</sup> the hours will expand back to pre-COVID for the Pump Your Breaks program.
    - iii. 256 breathalyzer tests were administered between July and November 2020 by the Pump Your Breaks program.
3. Maryland Tobacco and Alcohol Legislation Session 2021 Final Update (Presented by Brook Torton, Legal Resource Center, Center for Public Policy)
- a. Tobacco Bills

*Failed Tobacco Bills:*

HB134/SB177: Business Regulation- Flavored Tobacco Product Prohibition (FAILED)-- Prohibits the manufacturing, shipping, importing, or selling of flavored tobacco products in MD

SB378: Baltimore City – Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices – Local Law Authorization (FAILED)

HB1011/SB410: Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices – Local Law Authorization (FAILED)

*Passed Tobacco Bills:*

HB1324/SB883: Tobacco Tax and Sales and Use Tax– Out-of-State Sales of Premium Cigars and Pipe Tobacco and Tobacco Smoking Devices (PASSED)

HB732: Tax Increase Veto Override (from 2020 Session) Taxation – Tobacco Tax, Sales and Use Tax, and Digital Advertising Gross Revenues Tax (PASSED)

    - The tax rates on cigarettes and other tobacco products increased, and there is a tax rate of 12% on ESDs
  - b. Statewide Alcohol Bills

*Failed Alcohol Bills:*

HB996/SB763: Class A Licenses- Retail Grocery Establishments (Healthy Food Accountability Act of 2021) (FAILED)-- Allows grocery retailers to sell beer and wine

HB422/SB 285: Minority Participation in the Alcoholic Beverage Industry- study (FAILED)

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HB796: Alcohol Sales Tax Decrease (FAILED)-- Decreases the alcohol sales tax from 9% to 6% until 2023

*Passed Alcohol Bills:*

HB12/SB205: Alcoholic Beverages- On-Sales- Required multiple purchases (Cocktails To-Go) (PASSED)-- Permits bars, restaurants, and taverns to sell sealed cocktails for carryout and delivery

HB 185: Alcoholic Beverages - On-Sales - Required Multiple Purchases (PASSED)

HB 1232/SB 821: Alcoholic Beverages - Manufacturer's Licenses and Off-Site Permits (PASSED)

- c. For additional questions regarding these bills
  - i. Contact Brooke Torton with LRC via email: [btorton@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:btorton@law.umaryland.edu)
  - ii. Visit [Maryland General Assembly website](#) for additional details

## 4. Tobacco and Alcohol Program Update

### a. Tobacco Program Update

- i. FCHD is waiting for grant instructions for CRF and Synar grants for FY22.
- ii. FCHD will solicit feedback from the coalition on strategies to use for FY22.

### b. Synar- Tobacco Sales Enforcement

- i. Merchant Education
  - 1. In FY21, the goal to provide merchant education visits to the 233 tobacco licensees in Frederick County was met.
  - 2. Two mini-grants were awarded to two community organizations. Living Well Youth Works and Asian American Center of Frederick conducted face-to-face tobacco merchant education visits to 100 tobacco merchants located within the city of Frederick.
  - 3. FCHD staff conducted the educational visits with the remaining 133 tobacco merchants throughout the city and county.
  - 4. Merchants were provided updated information about Tobacco 21 to ensure they are checking IDs and have the updated materials from the Maryland Department of Health.
  - 5. In FY22, the plan is to complete the merchant education visits before tobacco compliance checks are conducted.
- ii. Merchant Tobacco Sales Compliance
  - 1. In FY21, there were no tobacco compliance checks conducted due to COVID.
  - 2. FCHD plans to partner with local law enforcement to conduct tobacco compliance checks and hire a Tobacco Enforcement Officer- this will be a part-time position that provides merchant education and conducts tobacco compliance checks.

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3. In FY22, the goal is to check each tobacco merchant once and re-check any businesses that have a violation.
  4. Underage purchasers will attempt to purchase vaping products when possible instead of cigarettes since the data shows most youth are using ESDs (electronic smoking devices).
- iii. CRF Grant- Tobacco Use and Cessation program
1. An overview of priority areas and strategies used in FY21 was reviewed. FCHD was not able to carry out all of the FY21 proposed strategies due to COVID restrictions.
  2. In FY22, FCHD will continue to work with Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) to provide resources to health classes to address tobacco use prevention including ESDs, and work to address tobacco policy violations by using the online education program ASPIRE.
  3. In FY22, FCHD will resume cessation efforts in the Frederick County Adult Detention Center when allowed and continue to partner with Rescue Mission and Way Station.
  4. In FY22, FCHD will attempt to partner with the Frederick Center to address tobacco use among the LGBTQ population.
- iv. Cessation Program Update
1. There have been 8 new clients since the last meeting in March.
  2. FCHD will continue to outreach to clients via phone and email to set up sessions and NRT pick-up.
  3. Year to date, FCHD has seen 47 clients.
- c. Alcohol- Substance Abuse Block Grant (SABG)/MSPF2 Update
- i. Alcohol Compliance Check Update
1. Maryland State Police conducted an alcohol compliance check operation in March.
  2. Of the 24 businesses checked, there were 8 sales to minor violations. None of these 8 businesses asked for identification for the minor.
  4. *Frederick News Post* published an [article](#) about the operation and public comments on social media were primarily in support of these checks.
  5. The Liquor Board hearing for these violations is Monday, May 10. The hearings are currently broadcasted on Facebook Live for the public to view through the [Frederick County Boards and Commission Facebook page](#).
- ii. Key Informant Interviews
1. Interviews with Law Enforcement and individuals who work in alcohol establishments and have completed responsible beverage service training

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will be conducted to determine if compliance checks had an impact on merchant behavior.

2. Robert Lind with the FCLB suggested including Safe Alcohol Service (SAS) training offered by Dawn at the FCLB and not just TIPS.
  3. Interviews will also be conducted with young adults (ages 18-25) to determine the effectiveness of the Think Before You Drink (TBYD) campaign and any changes in drinking behavior.
  4. Interviews will be conducted by Hillary Gross, an epidemiologist with the FCHD, or Marge Rosensweig, Program Evaluator.
  5. Gift cards will be offered to young adults and alcohol licensees as an incentive for participation in these interviews.
- iii. Online surveys (ages 18-25)
1. An online survey will also be conducted using Facebook and Instagram with a set parameter of ages and Frederick County residents, to determine the impact of the TBYD social media campaign on drinking behavior.
  2. There will be an option to enter to win a gift card as an incentive for survey participation. The Coalition will be asked to either participate in surveys or help disseminate the surveys.
5. Upcoming Events/Announcements
- a. [National Prevention Week](#) (May 9-15)
    - i. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) hosts this event.
    - ii. FCHD will have posts on [Stay In The Know](#) youth prevention social media pages.
  - b. [World No Tobacco Day](#) (Monday, May 31)
    - i. World Health Organization (WHO) hosts this event.
    - ii. FCHD will have social media messages to promote cessation services.
  - c. [Summer Concert Series](#) (Sunday, June 13)
    - i. Tobacco Free Frederick will be a sponsor of this concert series.
    - ii. A table will be set up with tobacco education on this date.
  - d. Pride Event (Saturday, June 19)
    - i. The event will be sponsored by the Frederick Center.
    - ii. FCHD will have a table at this event.
    - iii. Planning for COVID vaccines to be available if possible.

## **Next Coalition Meeting:**

There will not be a TAC meeting in July. The next meeting will be held on *Thursday, September 2, 2021, at 3:00 pm*. This will be a virtual meeting through Microsoft Teams.