

Frederick County - Tobacco and Alcohol Coalition Meeting

Virtual Format/Microsoft Teams

March 7, 2024

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

MINUTES

Members present: Todd Crum (BHS), Christopher Daffin (LRC), Jeanni Winston-Muir (FCC), Brandon Rhodes (BHS), Blair Inniss (LRC), Danielle Lane (WIC), P.J. Miller (BHS), Danielle Haskin (Health Equity), Brian Griffith (FCPS), Nate Smith (BHS), Hillary Gross (FCHD), Nancy Noriega (AACF), Dr. Holland (MDH), Sara Ahmed (MDH)

1. Welcome and Introductions/Approval of Minutes

- Todd opened the meeting at 3:00pm with welcoming remarks and asked attendees to sign in via the “Chat”.
- The January 2024 TAC minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Legislative Update from the Legal Resource Center

- Blair Inniss introduced Christopher Daffin who shared the latest tobacco-related legislative updates.
- SB244/HB236. Adds vaping to the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA) (includes tobacco and cannabis products). Requires signage indicating where and where not to vape. SB 244 received a favorable report with amendments on 3/7/24.
- SB220/HB42. Repeals the existing military exemption that allows 18 to 20-year-olds to be sold tobacco products. Brings Marland State law up to date with Federal law. This bill passed the full Senate and House with a super-majority of votes. **It will become law October 1, 2024.**
- SB 1056/HB 1180. Conforms state law with federal law. “Retailers may only display tobacco products, including vapes but excluding premium cigars, behind the counter.” Retailers must verify a buyer’s age before selling tobacco products.
 - i. Requires MDH to conduct compliance checks of all tobacco retailers annually. Amendment to this bill would change to “MDH or designee” and would include only one check per year with follow-up check for violators.
 - ii. For Criminal Law 10-107 - Increases fines for first violation to \$500. Mandates ATCC to suspend for up to 90 days for second violation and up to 180 days for a third violation; and revocation for subsequent violation.
 - 1. Amendments make same changes to Health-General 24-305 and 24-307 (civil citations)
 - iii. Raises the retail license fee to \$300. Allows vapes to be sold exclusively by vape shop vendors. Allows vapes to be sold exclusively by vape shop vendors.
- SB987/HB1033. Requires vape manufacturers to be certified and pay certification fees. Requires OAG to create registry of certified vape manufacturers.
- HB141 – Electronic Smoking Devices – Licensure, Indoor Use and Taxation – Alterations. Hearing canceled.
- **LRC Legislative Tracker – real time tracking of public health bill. Bi-weekly Zoom meeting updates. Email publichealth@law.umaryland.edu to be added to the listserv.**
- **LRC Annual Conference – June 5. Stay tuned for more details.**

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3. Round Robin/Updates from Coalition Members – no updates shared.
4. SAMHSA “Prevention Day” experience (Tamir Shahid / Jeremy Gray) – not present.
5. Zyn Presentation / Update (P.J. Miller)
 - P.J. Miller provided a brief presentation on a tobacco product called “Zyn”. In short, these nicotine pouches have been on the market since 2014. Originally designed as an alternative to smoking. Lately the products are being used more as an energy stimulant that is popular among younger adults. Between 2019 and 2022, nicotine pouch sales have grown from \$216M to \$808M.
 - These cellulose pouches contain pharmaceutical grade nicotine, binders that help release the nicotine, flavors, and a pH buffer which also helps with the delivery of nicotine.
 - These pouches contain nicotine, which is highly addictive. Produces some of the same responses (increased heart rate, increased blood pressure) and nicotine withdrawal symptoms when the product isn’t being used.
 - Nicotine pouches are not an FDA-approved NRT product.
 - For more information about Zyn products, tobacco, e-cigs, cessation, reach out to P.J. Miller.
6. FCHD Prevention Program Updates
 - Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation
 - i. The LWYW organization was awarded a Youth Prevention Mini Grant and is currently providing youth prevention using the [Stanford Toolkit](#). We have had some great turnouts to recent events and looking forward to upcoming events.
 - ii. Cessation Program Update (P.J. Miller)

Cessation sessions are still ongoing with both virtual and in-person appointments. Continuing to partner with our local Sober living homes and mental health treatment facilities to offer services for their clients. Anyone who is interested or knows someone who may be interested in services, contact P.J. at 301-712-7277.
 - Tobacco Merchant Education and Enforcement
 - i. We have completed the Merchant Education visits for Frederick County. This is in large part due to the 2 Merchant Education mini-grantees, LWYW & AACF. We have approximately 250 businesses and we are thankful for the partnership with those organizations.
 - ii. Merchant Enforcement will be ramping back up now that we are finished with Merchant Education visits. We have had 21 violations so far in FY24.

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- Substance Abuse Block Grant
 - i. Alcohol Compliance Check Update (Todd Crum)
 - 1. MSP conducted 6 alcohol merchant compliance check visits in February 2024. 5 businesses passed; one business was referred to the FCLB for non-compliance.
 - 2. A quarterly press release will be issued announcing the results of alcohol AND tobacco merchant inspections.
 - ii. Kids Like Us (KLU) Update (Todd Crum)
 - 1. KLU continues to provide much needed services to students in grades 4 - 12.
 - 2. KLU staff are gearing up for free summer day camps.
 - iii. COVID-19 Prevention Update (Kelly Huggins)
 - 1. No update.
- FY24 Tobacco, Diabetes and Chronic Disease Prevention & Management Grant (Danielle Haskin)
 - i. Danielle Haskin reported that the HEO's Tobacco, Diabetes, Chronic Disease (TDCD) project continues to share the quit line resources of the Asian Quitline, Maryland's 1-800-QUIT-NOW, and the Spanish-language Quitline (1-855-DEJELO-YA).
 - ii. The HEO has released three mini-grants to local partners. Women Solve has created a PSA video, AACF is continuing to have school-based conversations on tobacco prevention, and Centro Hispano de Frederick is gearing up for summer programming in three different schools.
 - iii. A new Community Health Outreach Worker (CHOW) position is coming onboard to help with the implementation of TDCD initiatives.
 - iv. Smoke Free Holy Grounds continues to be a priority and we are currently in works with First Missionary Baptist Church.

7. Announcements

- FY25 CRF and Tobacco Sales Enforcement Grants
 - 2021/2022 YRBS (youth) and BRFSS (adult) data
 - Todd stated that the FY25 CRF and Synar grant applications will be here soon and we seek the input from the coalition on upcoming tobacco prevention and cessation strategies.
 - Todd will share the latest YRBS and BRFSS data from Frederick County with the members for them to consider when thinking about upcoming prevention activities.
 - Dr. Holland shared information about an upcoming tobacco in Richmond, VA and encouraged all to attend. Dr. Holland shared the conference information and it will be distributed to the members to review and consider.
 - Dr. Holland also shared that MDH had provided additional funding for tobacco compliance checks.

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8. Upcoming Events

- **International Night at Frederick High School**
 - i. Wednesday, March 27, 2024 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. This event will celebrate culture heritage while supporting and serving Frederick County families. This is a great opportunity to inform the community about the services you/your organization has to offer. For more information, contact Ana Mejia at ana.mejia@fcps.org or 240-236-7028.
- **Maryland Tobacco Control Resource Center – 18th Annual Best Practices Conference (virtual)**
 - i. Friday, April 26, 2024 from 8:30am until 1:30 pm. Agenda items include FDA Tobacco Product updates, Tobacco and Menthol in the Black Community, Special Populations Panel, State Updates, Communication Techniques for Providers. Save the date...more info to follow.
- **Drug Take Back Day**
 - i. Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 10am until 2pm. For more information about local drug and syringe disposal efforts, contact Nate Smith at NSmith@FrederickCountyMD.gov or 301-606-0146.
- **Knock Tobacco Out of the Park**
 - i. Sunday in June 2024 at Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium. For more information, contact Brandon Rhodes at BRhodes@FrederickCountyMD.gov or 240-285-7465

Next Coalition Meeting:

Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 3:00 pm (Meeting through Microsoft Teams)