

# Tobacco Free Baltimore County Coalition

MINUTES

11/16/2016

3:00 P.M.

WOODMOOR PAL CENTER

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Program Manager, Victoria "Vicki" Keller
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Baltimore County Tobacco Free Coalition
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Program Manager, Victoria Keller and Tobacco Supervisor, Amy Beaumier
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Meghan Leavitt
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Denise Albright, Crystal Andre, Amy Beaumier, Corinne Croucher, Ronald Fowlkesbey, Mahlet Geteye, Bob Katzen, Victoria Keller, Meghan Leavitt, Elliott Lehem, Joan Livezey, Ruth Lucas, Sarah Platt, Chelsea Proudlock, Ludy Smith, Chane Steinharter, Dave Winterling, Dan Young

Vicki introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the Coalition. Vicki asked everyone to introduce themselves. Minutes from 09/21/2016 were reviewed and approved as written.

## AGENDA TOPICS

### POLICY UPDATES

**VICKI KELLER  
DENISE ALBRIGHT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Vicki went over a new requirement that went into effect October 1, 2016, which requires the names of coalition members to be listed on the Baltimore County website, as well as the coalition agenda and meeting minutes once they have been approved. She asked that all attendees complete a membership form if they have not already done so.</p> <p>Denise Albright, CRF/PATCH Coordinator from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), discussed a new law that D.C. just passed, which states you must be 21 years of age to purchase tobacco products.</p>
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### UPDATE ON INVITEES TO COALITION MEETINGS

**VICKI KELLER  
AMY BEAUMIER**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Amy stated that at our last meeting, Co-Chair Christine Schutzman, asked everyone to try to bring someone new to our next Coalition meeting, and we are pleased to see all the new faces.</p>
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### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATES – CRF/SYNAR

**BUREAU OF BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH STAFF**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p><b>Cessation</b> – Dan went over cessation programs offered to assist individuals in quitting smoking. He stated that the county offers free quit smoking classes throughout the county and handed out a flyer with the schedule of those classes. Dan also stated there is a list of those classes on our county website as well. The county also offers free nicotine replacement for those who attend the classes. Dan also discussed the Lansdowne walk-in clinics, which offer one-on-one counseling.</p> <p><b>School/Community Funding</b> – Amy updated the group that applications for schools to apply for up to \$1000 in grant funds for tobacco education activities are being received. The deadline is December 2, 2016 or until funds are exhausted. She stated that community funding is available for tobacco education programs for up to \$3500. The application deadline is December 1, 2016 but will be extended until all of the funds are exhausted. Amy went</p>
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over the changes in how the community funding money can be disbursed to alleviate groups having to use their own funds upfront.

**Enforcement** – Vicki went over enforcement updates. She stated that the Synar compliance rate for Baltimore County in FFY14 was 40%, FFY15 was 54.7% and FFY16 was 15.15%. Though the rate for this year is not yet published, it is expected to be much lower. The violation rate is determined through federally mandated compliance checks of 10% of tobacco retail outlets. For the current rate, purchases attempted by minors were made at 80 Baltimore County tobacco retailers. Out of those 80 stores, only one sold tobacco to a minor. Vicki also stated that getting the violation down to this level took significant effort and grant and county resources. The Bureau has made sure to conduct compliance checks at every store in Baltimore County that sells tobacco several times. She stated that we have not yet heard what the State violation rate is for this year, but it is expected to be lower than last year's rate of 13.8%.

## DISCUSSION

Dave Winterling from Royal Farms Store, stated mistakes can happen with checking ID's. For example, not reading the ID correctly or not scanning the ID. However, he feels his store (Royal Farms Store) has improved a great deal by making sure employees are properly trained and possibly re-trained. He went over his rate for Royal Farms and in the past, they were at 30% fail rate, and they are now only at 10%.

Dave asked the Coalition what the procedure is when a store sells tobacco to a minor. Vicki replied by going over the process and explained that the HEO (Health Enforcement Officer) goes into the store with the minor and observes the transaction. If the minor is sold tobacco, the HEO issues a citation and educates the store representative on how to properly examine the ID. The store owner also receives a follow up letter within a few days. The first offense for sale of tobacco to a minor is a \$500 fine, second offense is \$1,000, and third or subsequent offense is \$1,500. These fines reset every calendar year.

Attendee asked if the county will start to add e-cigarettes to our tobacco enforcement checks. Vicki replied that we are hopeful that this component will be added to local legislation in the future. She also stated that e-cigarettes are becoming a trend in youth, so we are trying to educate youth through the school grants and community outreach.

Attendee asked if e-cigarettes are FDA approved. Denise Albright replied that e-cigarettes are not FDA approved; however, the FDA are now regulating them.

Attendee asked what method of payment minors use when purchasing cigarettes. Vicki replied that she believes youth usually use cash to purchase tobacco to her knowledge; however, that question is not asked on youth surveys.

Dave Winterling added that he believes you must be at least 18 years of age to apply for a credit card, so he believes cash is generally used as well.

Attendee asked if our employed minors usually purchase cigarettes by the carton or by the pack. Vicki replied that they purchase packs of cigarettes, little cigars, and smokeless tobacco. She added that minors usually don't have a lot of money and tobacco 'favorites' are mostly low cost tobacco products.

Attendee asked if there was a way to outlaw tobacco. Denise replied that they have tried to get the legal age to be 21 in order to purchase tobacco; however, because tobacco is not an illegal substance, it is not something she believes can be outlawed.

## MEMBER UPDATES/ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Vicki discussed that we are going to be advertising our walk-in clinics on gas pump 'toppers' at gas stations located near the clinic locations. Ads for tobacco quit services will be displayed at shopping malls on back-lit boards.</p> <p>Vicki asked the coalition if the Woodmoor PAL Center was a good location for everyone to meet. The coalition agreed it would be a good location for future meetings.</p>
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**Meeting adjourned**

<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	January 18, 2017 @ 3:00 pm
<b>LOCATION</b>	Woodmoor PAL Center 7111 Croydon Road Baltimore, MD 21207