

MINUTES: 4/7/2020 Tobacco Prevention Task Force

Via Zoom

12 - 1 PM

Present:

Robert Galbreath

Levi Lozier

Sarah Hixson

John Kelly

Joey Burke

Eric Makelky

David Shaw

Trisha Scott

Meeting Notes:

- **Review of grant** for new members from John. A brief review of the 2018 - 2020 work plan strategies. This meeting is dedicated to evaluating current strategies and discussing strategies for the 2020 - 2022 that we can recommend to the full coalition on May 14.
- **Smoke-free bars:** Levi gave an update on his recent conversations about going smoke-free with the VFW. Levi will present a petition supporting a smoke-free VFW at the May VFW board meeting. The task force members agreed to recommend that grant funds be used to promote smoke-free bars at the end of this grant cycle and into the next cycle. Smoke-free indoor air is a high priority for the state Dept. of Health, who sent this in from Hannah Eck, state tobacco prevention department head: "Key point of smokefree air and laws is that it has the greatest impact on the greatest number of people. When smoking in public decreases it changes the cultural norm. It also protects the health of workers and decreases youth initiation". Joey requested that Trisha have a budget proposal for promoting and marketing smoke-free bars at the May 14 full prevention meeting.
- **Vape detectors:** Mr. Shaw reported that he has paid the software fee for the vape detectors in Skyline Academy for the next school year. Despite the drawbacks of being easily set off by cleaning agents and Axe deodorant, and causing students to "ghost", Mr. Shaw observed anecdotally that the detectors have decreased the presence of vapes on campus. Detectors do not prevent vaping, only decrease the presence on the Skyline campus. Given that the grant's efforts with vape detectors were completed in spring 2019, and no further grant time or money has been spent, the task force may consider discontinuing this strategy.
- **School prevention report:** Mr. Makelky reported that there has not been a single incident involving vapes at PMS this school year and attributes that to educating middle school parents, teachers, and youth, and also youth speaking out about the consequences of vaping. Mr. Shaw, Joey Burke, and Trisha reported that student's report interest in getting help quitting nicotine but only if their parents, the schools, and LE are not involved. This could be approached through the legislature and a state

statute, or with universal parent permission at the beginning of the school year. We will continue to respect the student's request and will explore options to include this in the 2020 - 2022 work plan.

- **Tobacco law and policy report:** 2018 - 2020 work plan strategy to educate law and policymakers about the vape problem succeeded in large part because Sublette has receptive lawmakers who support children's health issues. Ordinances, resolutions, laws and policy affecting vape use and access were enacted on all levels: Town, County, State, and Federal.
- **Tobacco Cessation groups:** Not yet sure what these will look like in the COVID reality. But we do want groups added to the 2020 - 2022 work plan. Adult cessation has been proven to decrease youth use of nicotine and tobacco. Working with Skyline to do a 3-week tobacco cessation module in fall 2020.

These recommendations will be assimilated into the new work plan/grant application and discussed and voted on at May 14 full coalition meeting.

12:56 pm: Adjourn.