

MINUTES: 4/24/23 ATODS: Alcohol, Tobacco, other Drugs Task Force
12 - 1 PM
Public Health Conference Room
Co-Chairs: Robin Carnes, Sarah Murdock, Peggy Weber

Present:

Robin Carnes, Public Health
Peggy Weber, Community member
Sarah Murdock, Bridges out of Poverty, Food Basket, Faith Community
Aaron Preece, High Country Behavioral Health
Hazel Kennard, DFS
Kaisha Simpson, DFS
Stephanie Sprenger, Sublette County Attorney's Office
Melinda Bobo, Faith Community
Darren Hull, Business, event planner
Janna Lee, Public Health
Trisha Scott, Coalition Coordinator

Notes:

Robin and Trisha reported all updates:

- 12 local servers trained in TIPS on 4/11 by Deputy Marlene Johnston. Next training tentative scheduled for June 6 or 13. Attended by Waterhole, Stockman's, Brew Pub and Green River Bar servers.
- 18 stakeholders attended the first Opioid Settlement Fund assessment meeting and provided input on problems related to opioid use and possible strategies. Next step: follow up email with an application for funds will be sent out by Friday 4/28 by the county commissioner's designated advisory committee.
- 100 Big Piney Middle School students attended "Vape prevention listening sessions" on April 17th. Tonia Hoffman and Officer Day and facilitated. Trisha was invited and gave this report: In their feedback to the questions, students demonstrated a scientific knowledge base about the harms and impacts of vaping, and the process of addiction. Students offered suggestions about prevention measures not yet explored, specifically, peer groups without teachers or parents to explore stresses of being an adolescent and how to cope with stresses without substances.
- Talk They Hear You underage drinking media - we are now paying to boost the social media posts to test if there is an increase in reach. Media campaign will focus on safety planning as we get closer to graduation.
- Delta - 8: Shared legal opinion from Ashley Schluck, Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, Wyoming Highway Safety, City of Laramie Attorney's Office. The gist: "The vast majority of labs (including our own lab in Wyoming) cannot distinguish natural hemp-derived products and these synthetically derived cannabis products. Because most labs can't tell the difference (right now), and even though we strongly suspect these Delta-8 products are in fact synthetically derived products and not naturally occurring products, we cannot prove they aren't naturally occurring and therefore not legal. The Farm Bill

currently allows for the sale of naturally occurring hemp products such as Delta-8; it does not allow for synthetically derived products. If, however, we can't prove which is synthetically derived and what is naturally occurring, our hands are tied when trying to enforce the sale of an illegitimate product because we can't say it is not a legitimate product." Please see below for the text of the whole email.

- 6 week Dimensions Tobacco Free classes begin May 2 at High Country Behavioral Health. 10 people in group.
- May 31: Drug Take Back event at Marbleton Senior Center.

Task force watched "The Lone Wolf" a 30 minute documentary from Wyoming PBS, exploring causes of addiction and examples of recovery in Wyoming. Task force members reported these observations:

We want to confirm our biases about causes of addiction, and certainly there are patterns, however, oftentimes we need to look outside of our biases to understand that it is a complex problem that can affect anyone.

Most of the people in recovery interviewed for the documentary spoke of childhood trauma of sexual abuse, absent parents, neglect, relatives sharing addictive substances.

Task force members noted and repeated the comment made in the film: Addiction is the opposite of connection. Connection heals addiction. Isolation breeds addiction.

Sarah Murdock recommended the film: "Join or Die" that explores how joining an organization, club, church improves health outcomes.

Discussion followed about opportunities for connection for youth in the county: sports, theater, 4-H. Despite many opportunities, more are needed, especially for families who do not have funds to participate in many existing opportunities. All summer PAC sessions filled up within 24 hours of registration. More is needed. Sarah Murdock reported that at the present moment there are no opportunities or places for youth to gather in the evenings.

Stephanie Sprenger from the Sublette County Attorney's (SCA) Office reported on graduating the first diversion class of kids receiving MIP for tobacco. The In Depth tobacco intervention was used. The kids will present their vape prevention posters this week to parents and administrators at Sub1. The next diversion group of 3 kids with MIP in tobacco begins next week.

Stephanie researched Botvin Life Skills as a curriculum for all kids on diversion. Trisha will reach out to WDH for approval to spend CPG funds for Botvin training for Stephanie and the SCA Office. The SCA is interested in partnering with the schools to offer Botvin Life Skills in the health classes.

Melinda requested that the task force look deeper into how to share quit resources with parents and grandparents who use tobacco.

Meeting adjourned 1:25 PM.

Next meeting May 22.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ashley Schluck** <aschluck@cityoflaramie.org>
Date: Wed, Apr 5, 2023, 11:11 AM
Subject: Re: Delta 8, 9 and 10
To: Tracy Young <communityisprevention@gmail.com>

The DEA opinion references Delta-9-THC-O (Delta-9-THC acetate ester) and Delta-8-THC- (Delta-8-THC acetate ester), these two chemicals are not necessarily what is being sold and produced in the smoke/head shops. I say not necessarily, because even though it probably is what is being sold we do not currently have a way of knowing or testing to see if it is what is actually being sold. Delta-9-THC (without the acetate ester) is naturally occurring in the cannabis plant while Delta-8-THC (without the acetate ester) is naturally occurring in the hemp plant; these two things are different than what is being reference in the DEA letter. THC-O (that which is being referenced in the DEA letter) is an entirely synthetic product created after Delta-8 is extracted...which could occur from the natural plant (likely not) or the hemp-derived version. The Delta-8 is further processed by adding a chemical compound known as acetic anhydride (hence synthesized or synthetic).

The vast majority of labs (including our own lab in Wyoming) cannot distinguish natural hemp-derived products and these synthetically derived cannabis products. Because most labs can't tell the difference (right now), and even though we strongly suspect these Delta-8 products are in fact synthetically derived products and not naturally occurring products, we cannot prove they aren't naturally occurring and therefore not legal. The Farm Bill currently allows for the sale of naturally occurring hemp products such as Delta-8; it does not allow for synthetically derived products. If, however, we can't prove which is synthetically derived and what is naturally occurring our hands are tied when trying to enforce the sale of illegitimate product because we can't say it is not legitimate product.

As such, while we suspect most, if not all, of these products are synthetically derived because it would take an absorbent amount of hemp to produce just a small amount of Delta-8 product until we can test for the difference between the two it is difficult to enforce until the State either bans the products through legislation or we have testing which can demonstrate it is synthetically derived.

I hope this answers the question. It's a complicated subject and the industry has definitely found the work around. I do know there is a group currently trying to push the US Congress to fix this loophole caused by the Farm Bill, but fixing this through Congress could be a much slower process than fixing this through the Wyoming legislature.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or you need further clarification.

Ashley Schluck

Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor - Wyoming Highway Safety
City of Laramie Attorney's Office
P.O. Box C, Laramie, WY 82073
(Phone) 307.721.5321 (Fax) 307.721.5318