

June 1, 2023   | 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Quarterly full Coalition Meeting

ZOOM

Meeting Summary

**Members Present:** Ellana Stinson (Chair), Hank Dorkin (Vice Chair), Carole Allen, Mary Brush, Chris Banthin, Maureen Buzby, Bonnie Carroll, Allie Cataldo, Rachel Cohen, Ray Considine, Karen Costas, Doris Cullen, Megan Decosta, Amani Desamours, Jackie Doane, Edgar Duran Elmudesi, Kristina Finn Silver, Patti Henley, Marc Hymovitz, Paula Madison, Jordan Mackin, Sarah McColgan, Dave Newman, Allyson Perron Drag, Ed Rand, Joan Rubel, Candace Savage, Cheryl Sbarra, Steve Shestakofsky, Cheryl Snyder, Lisa Stevens-Goodnight, and DJ Wilson.

**State Update:** The House passed their budget in April with no funding for the MTCP program. It used to be its own line item, and last year put into a line item with chronic disease. Some earmarks added within House budget but not specifically for tobacco. Worked with Senate to get an amendment to bring it up over what it was last year. Not as much as hoped but above level funding. Budget will go to conference committee, likely to get done in July.

The Cannabis Control Commission scrapped a Pilot plan for social consumption establishments in 12 communities to broaden regulations. At TFM our position is focused on tobacco. On this issue we want to maintain full integrity of the smoke-free workplace act. Will continue to provide updates.

**Local Policy Update:** Currently there is no cap on smoking bars in Worcester. Advocates are working to keep this on the radar in Worcester. Anyone interested in getting involved, especially contacts in the business community or chamber of commerce would be helpful.

Also in the news, Canada is requiring warning signs on each cigarette starting on October 1st.

Chelsea Health Department sent a letter to all retailers indicating the HD in conjunction with TA providers have determined that Newport Non-Menthol is a menthol product. As of June 15th, this will start to be enforced. This is on the radar of the AG and the Governor’s office in MA.

**MTCP Updates:** New staff member, Cheryl Snyder Senior Cessation Coordinator, Welcome! Also, a new Commissioner for the Mass Dept. of Public Health, Dr. Robert Goldstein. Thank you for a successful Kick Butts Day with a lot of positive feedback from legislators and young people.

Communication update, Rachel Cohen, Sr. Health Communications Specialist with MTCP. A current Youth Vaping Prevention campaign with Google search ads. Parents searching youth vaping or how to help my child quit will see an ad and be directed to the Get Outraged website. This campaign will extend through the summer. For youth vaping cessation, MTCP purchased a license with the Rescue Agency to promote My Life My Quit, the Quitline’s youth cessation program for youth ages 12-17. For general cessation an ongoing Google ad campaign is also extended through the summer. Looking to tailor to reach audiences interested in menthol, pregnant and postpartum and behavioral health programs. Also in the works, to rerun The First Step Campaign. Provider outreach, through organizations, to reach providers to promote 1-800-Quit-Now. Developing a provider packet with information from the clearinghouse to promote the Quitline and cessation resources. Starting July 1, major U.S. tobacco companies must begin to post Corrective Statements at point of sale at retailers that have direct marketing agreements. The signs will be installed near cigarette displays in stores between July 1 - September 30 and must be displayed for 21-months. Will send postcards about retailer training, online training in English and Spanish, to facilitate compliance. Website is undergoing reorganization. MakeSmokingHistory.org will be redirected to the Mass.gov website.

**Federal Updates:** Amani Desamour (adesamours@tobaccofreekids.org), Advocacy Associate, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. CTFK remains focused on the proposed rules to ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars and it is expected to be finalized this fall and the FDA’s continued review and rejection of flavored e-cigarette applications. Working with Rep. Robin Kelly to lead a letter to FDA with members of the CDC in support of the proposed menthol rule. The rules are expected to be finalized in the fall and we will see another letter with members of the CDC. Twenty-one senators sent a letter to the FDA asking for information on the proposed menthol and flavored cigar rules. HR901 disposable ends product enforcement act of 2023 requires the FDA to prioritize enforcement of disposable e-cigarette products, but it’s critical for the FDA to prioritize the removal of all flavored e-cigarette products. In Massachusetts, a local sign-on letter was circulated to Rep. Pressley to thank her and keep her support. The voice from Mass at a state level has been helpful from a federal perspective.

**Membership Committee:** Dr. Stinson reported the creation of a Membership Committee to bring in more people from communities that are more vulnerable, LGBT and communities of color. We will develop a strategy for TFM member recruitment. Behavioral Health is a target population that should be represented. Chris Banthin and Ray Considine agreed to work on developing a membership strategy.

**Member Announcements:**

Dr. Carole Allen - hosted an event with Rep. Pressley and extended an invitation.

Dave Newman - provided a quick update on MCED. Detection of cancer at an early stage is a piece of legislation that would create a pathway for Medicare to cover this type of test with approval of the FDA. ACS supportive of this, several cancers attributed to smoking and many do not have early detection screening. Massachusetts is a leader in lung cancer screening but only at 17%.

**Coalition Updates:**

Lisa reported that TFM is in the process of renewing memberships. If you have not received a renewal notice, please let her know. A poll was taken to check the level of interest for holding a future meeting in person. 70% reported they would be interested and 30% reported not at this time. We are keeping our options open. ZOOM has helped to engage with more members.

Adjourned at 11:16 AM