

Meeting Report

Tobacco-Free Partnership of Martin County

May 26, 2009, 2009, 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Location: Stuart / Martin County Chamber of Commerce
1650 South Kanner Highway
Stuart, Florida 34994-7199

Attendees:

- Barry Hummel, Jr., MD, Program Administrator, QDREF, Martin County
- Marilyn Leeds, Everglades AHEC
- Jennifer Howell, Counselor, Tykes & Teens

Members not in Attendance:

- Carol Wegener, Martin Co Health Department, School Health
- Donna Skillings, Martin Co Health Department, School Health
- Maureen Ryan, Martin County Health Department, Nursing Supervisor
- Tori Savard, American Cancer Society
- Suzanne Williams, Alcohol Drug & Tobacco Prevention, Palm Beach County FL School District
- Dr. Bruce Hansbrough, Harmony Healing Arts Center, Stuart FL
- Robyn Vanover, Martin County School District, Safe and Drug Free Schools
- Jessica Polzin, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers
- Larry Tucker, WSTU Radio, Stuart, FL
- Bob Herbst, Motivational Speaker, www.speakagain.com
- Lesley Herbst, www.speakagain.com

Agenda:

The agenda for this quarterly meeting focused on the issue of policy change. Please see the attached agenda and handouts.

Meeting:

Several regular members that had confirmed their attendance did not show up, which is very atypical for this group. During introductions, Dr. Barry Hummel addressed the poor turn-out of the meeting, which he believed was a result of the three-day weekend.

Dr. Hummel then presented his material on changes in tobacco policies at the local level (see attached). Using flavored and smokeless tobacco products as an example, Dr. Hummel walked through possible solutions.

During the subsequent discussion, the group discussed other possible changes in policy that could be addressed at the local level. These included:

- Litter ordinances in local parks and beaches that included tobacco products, creating tobacco-free parks and beaches.
- The change in the zero-tolerance/automatic suspension policy in the Martin County School District to include an tobacco education/prevention program for first time violators of the current tobacco policy.
- A local ordinance that would either ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, or force business to place the products under the counter and out of plain sight, rendering the child-friendly packaging irrelevant.

After discussing a broad array of potential policy changes, the small group decided to work on the litter ordinance and/or tobacco-free parks and beaches as the first project. The group felt that the pending Federal legislation granting the FDA regulatory authority over tobacco would have an enormous impact on the issue of advertising and flavored tobacco products.

Dr. Hummel agreed to form a task-force of three Tobacco-Free Partnership members to explore the issue of tobacco-free parks and beaches. Dr. Hummel will also actively recruit two people who he met recently that were interested in this issue:

- Treasure Coast Surfriders: The Treasure Coast Surfriders have expressed an interested in partnering on ordinances promoting clean, tobacco-free beaches.
- Patrice Daniels, Boys and Girls Clubs, is interested in partnering on ordinances promoting clean, tobacco-free parks.

Dr. Hummel also reported that Angela Gomez, formerly of Project Northland, will be taking a full-time position with the Martin County Department of parks and recreation. Dr. Hummel will recruit Ms Gomez to join the Tobacco-Free Partnership in her new capacity, and to work on the newly-formed task-force on tobacco-free parks and beaches.

Summary:

This meeting of The Tobacco-Free Partnership of Martin County focused the issue of policy change. The members present decided to undertake the issue of tobacco-free parks and beaches as their first project. The group agreed to form a task force on this issue. Action steps include:

- Recruitment of members of the Treasure Coast Surfriders for both the Tobacco-Free Partnership, and the newly-formed task-force.
- Recruitment of Patrice Daniels, Boys and Girls Clubs of Martin County, for both the Tobacco-Free Partnership and the newly-formed task-force.
- Recruitment of Angela Gomez, Martin County Parks and Recreation, for both the Tobacco-Free Partnership and the newly-formed task-force.