

Meeting Report

Tobacco-Free Partnership of Martin County

November 18, 2008, 12:00 – 1:00 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
- Suzanne Williams, Alcohol Drug & Tobacco Prevention, Palm Beach County FL School District County Chamber of Commerce
- Carol Wegener, Martin Co Health Department, School Health
- Donna Skillings, Martin Co Health Department, School Health
- Kelly Vega, American Cancer Society, Martin County
- Mayte Canino, American Cancer Society, Regional Director
- Marilyn Leeds, Everglades AHEC
- Robyn Vanover, Martin County School District, Safe and Drug Free Schools

Members no in Attendance:

- Jessica Polzin, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers
- Dr. Bruce Hansbrough, Harmony Healing Arts Center, Stuart FL

Agenda:

Staff from the American Cancer Society presented information on a proposal to increase the excise tax on cigarettes by \$1.00/pack during the upcoming Florida legislative session.

Meeting:

Mayte Canino presented “Florida Cigarette Tax Legislative Campaign” (see attached).

The presentation outlined the current Florida cigarette excise tax, the benefits of raising the tax by \$1.00, and the upcoming legislative campaign. Ms. Canino also discussed the need for signed petitions, and provided instructions for the group on the best way to utilize the petitions provided by the American Cancer

Society. Following the presentation, there was a very dynamic discussion regarding these topics.

During the discussion, Kelly Vega discussed the upcoming “Relay for Life” races in Martin County. Ms. Vega discussed her need for a volunteer to function as the Advocacy Chair for the Jensen Beach Relay for Life, being held at the Jensen Beach High School.

Dr. Hummel expressed his desire to volunteer in the capacity, but he discussed his need to review the role with the Florida Department of Health to make sure that there is no conflict of interest.

Summary:

This meeting of The Tobacco-Free Partnership of Martin County focused on the issues regarding the current Florida cigarette excise tax.

Current action plans include:

- Dr. Hummel will arrange a follow-up meeting in 8-16 weeks.
- Dr. Hummel will discuss the role of Advocacy Chair for the Jensen Beach Relay for Life with staff at the Florida Department of Health to make sure that there are no conflicts of interest.
- Members of the Tobacco-Free Partnership will recruit volunteers to sign the petition for the American Cancer Society