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The Newsletter of the Tobacco Free Task Force in Washington County

Volume: 2006-07 | Issue: Mid-year Review

Mid-year Review Shows Progress Toward Meeting Tobacco Free Program Goals

The Mid-year Review meeting, held on January 26, 2007, examined objectives of the Tobacco Free Program's strategic plan for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The objectives (by program area) are as follows with mid-year results in bold type:

1. ***Ask and Advise*** works with health care professionals to identify and help tobacco users quit.

- Washington County Health Partners (WCHP) to contact 60 health professionals. **6 health professionals have been visited**.

- Centerville Clinics to maintain patient tobacco use tracking and implement patient exposure to secondhand smoke tracking in all of their offices. **All offices track patient tobacco use (July 2006), as well as patient exposure to secondhand smoke (November 2006).**

- WCHP to work with Canonsburg General Hospital, Monongahela Valley Hospital, and The Washington Hospital to track patient tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure status. **Canonsburg General Hospital is considering patient tobacco use tracking. Monongahela Valley Hospital tracks patient tobacco use and is developing a plan to track patient exposure to secondhand smoke. The Washington Hospital tracks patient tobacco use. As of February 2007, training began to track patient exposure to secondhand smoke**.

2. ***Clear the Air*** increases the number of smoke-free places.

- WCHP to distribute 500 Smoke-free Home and Vehicle Pledge Kits, as well as 500 New Baby Smoke-free Home and Vehicle Pledge Kits. **31 Smoke-free Home and Vehicle Pledge Kits, and 24 New Baby Smoke-free Home and Vehicle Pledge Kits have been distributed.**

- WCHP to provide daycares with updated tobacco free information, and assess satisfaction with the "Why Animals Don't Smoke" program. **Updated tobacco free information was provided in August 2006. Satisfaction follow-up is due in May 2007.**

- WCHP to update and distribute Smoke-free Dining guides. **The Smoke-free Dining guide was updated in November 2006.**

3. ***Do Your Part*** supports local law enforcement and the business community in prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors.

- WCHP will complete three enforcement compliance checks of all tobacco retailers in Washington County. **The first cycle of checks of retailers is complete. 190 retailers were checked, and the compliance rate was 96.34%.**

- WCHP to complete mailings of compliance checks results to tobacco retailers twice a year. **Due in February and June 2007**.

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Next Tobacco Free Task Force Meeting
Friday, March 23, 2007
9-11 a.m.

Hillsview Chapel Meditation Area, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Washington, PA

Next Issue:
Peer Factor

tobacco free.
A Program of Washington County Health Partners

Fast Facts

Historic Clean Indoor Air Bill Goes to Pennsylvania Senate
Senate Bill 246 (SB 246) passed the Public Health and Welfare Committee on January 31, 2007.

The bill, known as the Clean Indoor Air Act, is the first legislation of its kind to advance out of committee in the Pennsylvania General Assembly. SB 246 expands the list of public places where smoking is prohibited.

If the measure makes it to Governor Rendell's desk to be signed into law, it will take effect within 90 days. The Governor, as part of his "Prescription for Pennsylvania," has urged the General Assembly to enact the Clean Indoor Air Law by June 30.

President of the Pennsylvania Division of the American Cancer Society, Dr. Kathy Selvaggi, had a message for the legislators: "I applaud the members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee and urge members of the House and Senate to set aside politics and vote for the health and well-being of their constituents by implementing the Clean Indoor Air Act."

Sources: www.pactonline.org; www.post-gazette.com; www.legis.state.pa.us

Poll Shows Pennsylvanians Favor Statewide Smoking Bans
A recently conducted Quinnipiac Poll shows that state residents support a state public smoking ban by a 60 to 37 percent margin.

The poll had a plus or minus, 3-point margin of error.

Sources: www.post-gazette.com; www.quinnipiac.edu

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- WCHP to track results of citations issued during compliance checks. **Due in June 2007**.

4. ***Help to Quit*** promotes local, phone and internet-based tobacco cessation programs. The *Get Free Program*, a tobacco cessation financial aid program that provides nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), is also supported.

- Centerville Clinics to enroll 300 patients in their smoking cessation program, and 50 tobacco users in the *Get Free Program.* **172 patients are enrolled in their cessation program. 9 patients are enrolled in the *Get Free Program*. Due to budget cuts, the revised goal for the *Get Free Program* is 25.**

- WCHP and other subcontractors to register 250 tobacco users for a Tobacco Quit Kit. **65 Tobacco Quit Kits have been distributed.**

5. ***Knowledge in Action*** facilitates the exchange of information between experts, advocates, and lawmakers.

- WCHP to create maps for every legislative district in Washington County, listing constituents served by the Tobacco Free Program, and meet with legislators face-to-face at least once. **Maps are due in February 2007; 10 legislative contacts have been made.**

- WCHP to update program overview with results highlighted and integrated into *Exposure* newsletter. **The overview was integrated in the August 2006 newsletter (and available on page 3).**

- WCHP to collect 499 program participant endorsements. **272 endorsements have been collected.**

- WCHP to hold a Tobacco Free Task Force meeting on each program area. **Meetings have been held on 5 program areas.**

- Nicholl Brandt Communications Inc. to update the Tobacco Free Program's website, www.tobaccofreewashington.org. **16 updates have been made.**

6. ***Peer Factor* (BUSTED!)** creates an active youth movement to: oppose the tobacco industry by exposing the truth behind their advertising; quit tobacco use and help others to quit; and increase tobacco-free environments.

- The Washington Hospital Teen Outreach (TWHTO) to complete 2 Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) training sessions. **2 sessions were completed in January.** TWHTO to complete 8 TATU programs in 4 school districts. **1 program has been completed.**

- TWHTO to hold 40 *Peer Factor* meetings in their offices or in 4 middle schools, with high school teens to serve as co-facilitators. **22 meetings have been held.**

- TWHTO to hold three, four–hour events with *Peer Factor* youth to celebrate The Great American Smoke-out, Kick Butts Day, and World No Tobacco Day. **3 events were held in November for The Great American Smokeout.**

- TWHTO to enable *Peer Factor to* participate in Youth Quest 2007 in Harrisburg. **Youth Quest is scheduled for April 24-25, 2007.**

Mid-year Review (*continued*)

7. ***Set Them Free*** works with school-related audiences (administrators, teachers, parents, youth, magisterial judges, etc.).

- WCHP to distribute a school resource brochure to all 14 Washington County school boards and superintendents. Gateway VISION to distribute the brochure to principals and teachers in the 14 Washington County school districts. **The brochure was printed in February 2007.**

- Greene County Human Services to complete the "Why Animals Don't Smoke" program for each K-Grade 1 classroom in 9 Washington County school districts and 55 daycares. **The program has been presented in 2.5 school districts, and in 31 daycares.**

- Monongahela Valley Hospital to complete the "Why Animals Don't Smoke" program for each K-Grade 1 classroom in 5 Washington County school districts. **The program has been presented in 3 school districts, as well as 1 daycare and 1 private school.**

- Gateway VISION to complete the Minnesota Smoking Prevention Program (MSPP) in all 14 Washington County school districts and 2 private schools. **The program has been presented in 1 school district and 10 others are scheduled.**

Tracking Tobacco Free Program Success

In each issue, *Exposure* will include progress reports on some of the goals established in our 2006-07 strategic plan. Following is an update on how we are doing at reducing adult and youth tobacco use, and eliminating it as a norm.

Tobacco Free Program Areas	FY06-07 Goal	FY06-07 Progress
Ask and Advise: *Number of physicians, dentists, and pharmacists visited and given materials to support 2As and R*	60 health care professionals	6
Clear the Air: *Number of Smoke-free Home & Vehicle, and New Baby Smoke-free Home & Vehicle pledges*	1,000 pledges	55
Do Your Part: *Average % of compliant retailers*	90% or more	96.34%
Help to Quit: *Number of people in tobacco cessation programs*	300 people	172
Help to Quit: *Tobacco cessation quit rate*	14.1% or higher	_
Help to Quit: *Number of tobacco users in Get Free Program*	25 people	9
Help to Quit: *Number of Tobacco Quit Kits distributed*	250 kits	65
Knowledge in Action: *Number of Blue Cards filled out*	1,700 cards	939
Knowledge in Action: *Number of program participant endorsements*	499 endorsements	272
Knowledge in Action: *Number of legislative visits/contacts*	9 visits/contacts	10
Set Them Free: *Number of children reached with prevention (community and school)*	7,883 children	2,390
Peer Factor: *Number of events*	4 events	3
Peer Factor: *Number of teens who quit using tobacco*	4 teens	-

Fast Facts (*continued*)

Governor Rendell Proposes to Tax Smokeless Tobacco

In his "Prescription for Pennsylvania" address in late January, Governor Ed Rendell proposed a number of new taxes, among them a tax on smokeless tobacco.

If Governor Rendell's plan becomes a reality, Pennsylvania will become the last state in the country to have a smokeless tobacco tax.

The Governor also proposed a number of tax increases, including a 10 cent per pack increase on cigarettes, which could bring the price of a pack of cigarettes to nearly $6.

Sources: www. philly.com; www.healthnewsonline.com

Former Legislator to Oppose the Proposed Tax on Smokeless Tobacco

Mike Veon, a former state representative from Beaver County, has set up shop in Harrisburg as a lobbyist.

So far, his only client is the U.S. Tobacco Company, maker of high-end snuff and cigars.

Veon has publicly stated that he will oppose Governor Rendell's proposed 36 cents-per-ounce tax on cigars and smokeless tobacco.

A cigar smoker, Veon says that he has always been opposed to such a tax, "I've been opposed to taxing [smokeless tobacco and cigars] my whole career," he said.

He did say that he could support Governor Rendell's tax on cigarettes.

Sources: www.post-gazette.com; www.philly.com

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Mid-year Review

January 26 Meeting Notes Inside...

Note: You are invited to the next Tobacco Free Task Force meeting. Details are on the front page of this issue of Exposure.

Tobacco Free Task Force Meeting Calendar

Date	Time	Topic
Fri., Mar. 23, 2007	9-11 a.m.	*Peer Factor*
Fri., Apr. 27, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Review Assessment Data/Strategic Planning Part I
Fri., May 18, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Review Assessment Data/Strategic Planning Part II
Fri., June 22, 2007	9-11 a.m.	Review Assessment Data/Strategic Planning Part III

All meetings are held at the Hillsview Chapel Meditation Area, Presbyterian SeniorCare, Washington, PA, unless otherwise noted.

(800) QUIT NOW

(800) 784-8669

Referral line to free tobacco cessation services

Make a Pledge to Keep Your Home and Vehicles Smoke Free

Smoke-free Home and Vehicle Pledge Kit
...Breathing tobacco smoke pollution is harmful to people (especially children). We can help you make your home and vehicles smoke free.

New Baby Smoke-free Home and Vehicle Pledge Kit
...Infants under 18 months of age who live in a smoking household are twice as likely to die from sudden infant death syndrome. We can help you protect the newest member of your family.

Contact us to sign up for your free kit!
724-222-6511 ● 1-866-904-FREE
www.tobaccofreewashington.org

For comments/questions or to subscribe to *Exposure*, contact:
Craig Whyel, Tobacco Free Outreach Specialist
Phone: 724-222-6511, ext.12, or 1-866-904-3733 (FREE)
E-mail: crw@wchpinc.org

Funding is provided by the PA Department of Health.

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