

Meeting Minutes
Levy County Coalition Against Tobacco
January 18, 2011, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Bronson First Baptist Church

Agencies and Members in Attendance

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| 1. Levy County Health Department | Kristina Zachry |
| 2. Levy County Health Department | Swain Strickland |
| 3. Levy County Health Department | Barbara Locke |
| 4. Levy County Health Department | Janet Hart |
| 5. Community Member / SWAT Parent / Chair | Boyd Belnap |
| 6. Community Member / SWAT Parent / Secretary | Cheryl Belnap |
| 7. Suwannee River AHEC | Katy Hadsock |
| 8. Well Florida Council | Kim Gokhale |
| 9. CMS SWAT Advisor | Mary Phillips |
| 10. CMS SWAT Member | Emma Belnap |
| 11. CMS SWAT Member | Katy Belnap |
| 12. CHS SWAT Member / Co-Chair | Ansley Pentz |
| 13. CMS SWAT Member / Vice-Chair | Christian Aracena |

Welcome, Introductions, and Updates

Before the meeting, as members entered and signed in for attendance, they were asked to complete votes for the new Coalition logo. Two options were presented for voting: “Holding Hands” and “Cat.” Katy and Emma Belnap collected the votes. Kristina also introduced the new Tobacco Program Assistant, Janet Hart.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Mr. Boyd Belnap, at 3:51pm. Handouts included a current meeting agenda, meeting minutes from October 19, 2010, a handout on BTTP Required Policies for 2010-2012, and a draft of an Organization Chart that was completed for review by Boyd Belnap. Mrs. Cheryl Belnap reviewed the minutes from October 19th, 2010 and made a motion for no changes that was seconded by Kristina Zachry. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Mrs. Cheryl Belnap presented the “Two Minute Motivator” and read an article about the tobacco use policy at Maryland’s Towson University. There is no smoking allowed anywhere on their campus grounds. A fine of \$75.00 is given to anyone that is caught smoking. Many of Florida’s colleges and universities are also working to pass tobacco free campus policies. Cheryl observed that colleges & universities tend to have better tobacco free policies than those for K-12 schools. This information brought about discussion amongst those present about how we need a better policy put in place for our K-12 schools. Mary Phillips felt that universities have more flexibility than K-12 schools.

Chiefland High School SWAT member Ansley Pentz stated that the YAB (Youth Advocacy Board) attended a meeting in December and that they’re working closely with the new tobacco program marketing agency, Alma DDB. The SWAT program has a new website and Ansley thinks that it is “cool,” although it still needs some work on the content. Because of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the website content cannot contain “flash” animation, which limits the “coolness” of the site. The statewide SWAT initiative will be based on candy flavored tobacco.

Kristina Zachry gave an update on the tobacco free policies that the tobacco program is required to work on with the Coalition. There is a preemption clause in Florida that requires that local laws regulating smoking cannot be more stringent than state laws. It was brought to the attention of the Coalition that the Palm Beach County School District solicited the State Attorney General's opinion on the preemption clause as it pertains to the matter of comprehensive tobacco use policies on school grounds. The AG opinion was that preemption applies to the regulation of smoking anywhere. Therefore, schools would not have the right to regulate adult smoking, according to preemption. This preemption issue also applies to Florida State Parks and recreation areas. Some counties have passed ordinances considering tobacco as a litter issue instead of a smoking issue to create "tobacco free" parks.

Kristina stated that 46 other states are included together in a Master Settlement Agreement, unlike Florida, which is alone in a settlement with the tobacco industries. Because preemption has a large impact on the activities of the Coalition, Kristina advised that the Coalition stand down on regulating candy flavored tobacco and tobacco free K-12 school campuses until the Florida Governor's office finishes their reorganization of the state agencies and we get direction from the Bureau of Tobacco Prevention Programs on how to proceed with the policy directives in our work plan. Kristina suggested that we focus on Multi-Unit Housing Tobacco Free policies in the meantime, as these policies are not impacted by preemption. Boyd Belnap suggested that we continue this preemption discussion at the next meeting for a better understanding of the law and how it relates to the local level.

Kristina called upon CHS SWAT Member, Ansley Pentz, to come forward and presented her with a framed letter of recognition from former Governor Charlie Crist along with a signed photograph. The letter recognized Ansley for her work on the Florida SWAT Youth Advocacy Board.

The logo votes were tallied and the "Hands" logo was the winner.

Chairperson Boyd Belnap went over the handout on the Organizational Relationships of Interest to Levy CAT. Levy County Health Department's Administrator, Barbara Locke, opened the discussion on whether or not the Tobacco Advisory Council was designated by a Florida Statute or Legislature and what year the Amendment passed. Kristina Zachry stated it passed in 2006 and it is Amendment Four. There were various discussions on the different elements of the chart. Mr. Boyd Belnap stated he would like this handout completed by the next meeting to include in the new member packets. Mr. Belnap will take all suggestions for improvement, incorporate them, and have a new chart ready for review by the next meeting.

Kristina Zachry announced that Coalition member Helen Strain wanted to attend the Coalition meeting, however, she went on a ski trip that she paid for with the money she saved over the year from quitting smoking. A big round of applause for Helen was given from those in attendance.

Break Out Groups

Discussion was held about how to break into groups, due to low meeting attendance. Those present decided to break out into just two groups, one to discuss policies and one to discuss the logo and website. The "membership" group will meet at the next Coalition meeting to review progress to date on the new member packets.

Group One: Policy Issues

Group Members: Barbara Locke, Katie Haddock, Kim Gokhale, Cheryl Belnap, Mary Phillips, Kristina Zachry, Janet Hart

Kristina Zachry opened the discussion with an update on the meeting with the School Board Union President, Cindy Roach. SWAT members Ansley Pentz and Christian Aracena, as well as the CMS SWAT Advisor, Mary Phillips, attended the meeting with Kristina and they discussed the current initiative and policy proposal with Mrs. Roach. Mrs. Roach was personally supportive and noted that she would have to pitch the concept to her fellow union members and representatives to gauge their support. CMS Co-SWAT Advisor, Sonia Schmidt, is the union representative for CMS and she agreed to share information about the initiative at their next representative meeting. The outcome of the meeting with the rest of the union representatives was that they are concerned about enforcement, and they decided to postpone their decision about support until they can discuss enforcement. Barbara Locke suggested that enforcement can include posted signage on school campuses. Kristina reminded everyone that the only opportunity to amend the union contract language is this year, as they only review the language every three years.

The group discussed the fact that due to preemption, our school district's enforcement can only focus on possession of tobacco for adults and that the law does not provide for enforcement for adult tobacco use on school campuses. Mary Phillips stated that not everyone knows this fact even those that work within the school system. Barbara Locke thinks it would be good to educate the community by placing ads in the local newspapers with the laws that are in place for smoking in our state. Those in this group agreed and Kristina said she will contact the newspapers and possibly could run a 6 week series of facts about tobacco and the laws currently in place regarding tobacco.

The second issue discussed was on Multi-Unit Housing in Levy County and how a smoke free atmosphere could be an advantage to landlords. Swain Strickland compiled a list of private apartments and multi-family housing rentals in Levy County that was handed out for everyone to review. Kim Gokhale stated that a landlord attended a Marion County Coalition meeting and said that insurance is higher when renting to smokers and the cleaning is costly to rid the apartments of the smoke smell. She suggested targeting multi-unit dwelling lawyers as they will be checking into the legality of smoke free housing.

Kristina informed the group that the state of Maine has smoke free housing. The question was brought up, is this discrimination? There was discussion about the fact that there is no legal right to smoke. Having a smoke free policy is similar to having a pet policy. The state of Florida's percentage for tobacco users is about 20%, so the policies would be affecting only a small part of the population who uses tobacco. Barbara Locke mentioned to Kristina that she should get in-touch with Mr. Bob Williams, who is with the Levy County Housing Authority. This recommendation was agreed upon by the others in the group.

Group2: Logo and Web Page

Group Members: Boyd Belnap, Ansley Pentz, Emma Belnap, Katy Belnap, Christian Aracena

Mr. Belnap shared a presentation of one approach for a website for the Levy Coalition Against Tobacco. This group feels that a website would show credibility for the organization. Mr. Belnap stated that he used a web service called "Joomla," that offers a free product, but that a web host

would be needed, which the cost of would likely cost \$10.00-\$15.00 for the year. Boyd offered to fund and host the website on his work site for a few years. Mr. Belnap stated that he thought the website would be a nice place for people to see the new member packet and to see up-to-date blogs by Kristina and other members. Ansley liked the polls idea for the site and thought it would be nice for SWAT members to also blog on issues. Mr. Belnap said he is going to work on a log-in for members so that they have access to the site to see proposals, agendas for future meetings, and minutes from past meetings. The webpage could potentially have the domain name of LevyCat.com or LevyCat.org, depending on availability. Kim Gokhale stated she will find out how Alachua Coalition did their webpage.

Ansley stated that the logo voted for by members tonight was the “Holding Hands” concept with the font, Ariel Rounded.

Group Summaries and Discussion

The entire Coalition felt that the website would be a useful tool, and Kristina suggested an alternative to paying for the hosting of the site: Mr. Belnap doesn’t necessarily need to cover the cost out of pocket - if each member donated \$1.00 that fee could be covered. Barbara and Kristina also felt that the website would be allowed as long as the Dept. of Health logo does not appear on the site, but they would need to look into this further. There was also discussion about possible training on “Joomla” for future meetings so that members would understand how to navigate the site and contribute content.

Barbara Locke summarized that the Policy Group went over focusing on multi-unit housing and involving Mr. Bob Williams from the Levy County Housing Authority at the next meeting. Kristina said that she and Barbara will invite him. Kristina will also check with the newspapers regarding running a series of articles about tobacco and the Coalition. Mr. Belnap stated that he would periodically like to contribute a letter about tobacco awareness to the editor of the paper.

Kristina reminded everyone that the Coalition goals for now should focus on:

1. Maintaining the Coalition Against Tobacco in Levy County
2. Advertising the Coalition in the community
3. Education of Coalition members and SWAT members

Wrap-Up and Next Meeting

There was discussion about where to hold the next meeting. Mr. Belnap and Kristina agreed that there is a better turn out of members when the meeting is held in Chiefland. Kristina said that an invitation will be sent out to members via e-mail for the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned @ 5:37 pm

*****Next Levy Coalition Against Tobacco meeting*****

Date: Tuesday March 8th, 2011

Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.

Place: Capitol City Bank, Chiefland FL