



Policy/Systems Change Work Group

Thursday May 6, 2015 2:10 PM

EHS

Minutes

Strategy/Goal	Action	Next Steps/Who
Welcome	<p><i>Present: Alan Schadel, Jeff Harness, Cherry Sullivan, Chris Langelier, Stephen Linsky, Ruth Ever, Mary Kersell</i></p> <p><i>Welcomed Stephen to his first meeting here since moving out to Easthampton recently.</i></p>	
<p>Goal: decrease underage tobacco use</p>	<p>We discussed the recent decrease in smokers at the Smokers Corner at the high school; no one knows exactly why, but could be combination of talking to smokers directly, all the education and work done, more e-cig smokers.</p> <p>Mary K from Franklin and Hampshire Substance and Tobacco Prevention Partnership (FHSTOPP) presented on the recommended regulations and practices that can best prevent underage tobacco use. Having standardized language among our many towns creates consistent and clear laws. With the increase of stricter regulations federally over the years, tobacco industry has moved their advertising into the shops. The main concerns and loopholes that still exist that Easthampton can address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Raise the legal age to 21. This effectively gets tobacco completely out of and away from high schools and has the strongest impact on 15-16 year olds who can't "fake" being 21 the way they can sometimes "fake" being 18. We have good info sheets that counter all the arguments against this. 2) Ban all flavors (except menthol which is grandfathered in) in nicotine, unless it's an adult only establishment (any tobacco only store like Vaper Haven). 3) Revocation: kind of a 3-strikes-you're-out. Once you've violated your permit to sell, you lose it forever. Wording gives some wiggle room since this is so serious (which it should be). 	<p>Coalition can attend Board of Health meetings starting now and keep up to date on their agendas and plans. Once the third opening is filled it will make sense for BOH to review the proposed regulations, which Mary Kersell will be introducing to them. Coalition members in meantime can be: Collecting letters of support from local</p>

	<p>4) No sale within 500 feet of school unless you get grandfathered in.</p> <p>Other recommendation can be to put a cap on the number of stores in a town that can have permits to sell tobacco. Easthampton Board of Health did not adopt this last year, but we could do some research into how many we have and what we might want to recommend, which could impact access.</p> <p>Cigars are not regulated the same way as cigarettes, and flavored cigars are allowed. Banning all flavors will prevent both the appeal to young tastes and the access. Adult only establishments are exempted, so Vaper Haven would not be affected as you must be of legal age to enter there.</p> <p>It is estimated that 18-21 year olds who buy flavored tobacco make up only 3% of the tobacco market nationally, so the impact on raising the age to 21 and banning flavors should be minimal and there is no evidence that anyone has gone out of business because of these stricter regulations in other towns. There is a lot of evidence about the impact of drugs, including tobacco, on the teenage brain and delaying onset or use is highly recommended for their healthy brain development.</p> <p>Six communities in Western MA have already adopted these stronger regs, and 7 more are in the process.</p>	<p>businesses, churches, school administrators, parents, community agencies, youth, etc. Ruth will email policy group and others to assign letters to various people. Our social marketing campaigns next year could include some targeted to this issue possibly.</p> <p>Invite BOH members to our May 20 meeting.</p>
<p>Goal: decrease underage alcohol use</p>	<p>Ruth shared update on <i>Parent Who Host, Lose the Most</i> campaign which reinforces existing social host laws. Getting good media coverage including op-ed piece.</p>	<p>Al still needs to reach out to Jason Duda from Licensing Commission re: updating alcohol regs</p>