



TFRI Policy Workgroup

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

2:30pm – 4:00pm

American Heart Association

1 State Street, Providence, RI

Join the call: 719-284-5896 / PIN: 30108

Meeting Debrief

Attendance: Dan Fitzgerald (TFRI), Megan Tucker (AHA), Pat Nolan (Brown), Kristen Westmoreland (BAY Team), Kathy Sullivan (RISAS), Sheila Jacobs (Lifespan), Benvinda Santos (RIDOH), Erin Boles Welsh (RIDOH), Ken Farbstein (NIATx Foundation), Geri Guardino (RIDOH), Devan Quinn (Kids Count), and Jen Wall (ALA)

Policy Priority Discussion:

- The group has a conversation about each priority area, established a draft “elevator pitch” as well as a list of goals for Tobacco Free Rhode Island to act upon within the next year related to each policy priority
 - **Tobacco 21**
 - Increase the tobacco sale age from 18 to 21 at the state level including the sale of electronic cigarettes and flavored tobacco products.
 - Goals:
 - Update and disseminate tobacco 21 factsheet
 - Include education about tobacco 21 on legislative one pager
 - Youth engagement for advocacy days
 - **Smoke-free Schools – Enforcement Policy**
 - Ensure implementation of the state law that prohibits the use and possession of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products in schools.
 - Goals:
 - Work with school faculty, administration, and students to create recommended enforcement language that schools can utilize as a policy to enforce the smoke-free schools law
 - Continue to raise awareness about adherence to this law and recommended enforcement strategies with faculty, nurses, and administration
 - Creation of a social media toolkit for coalitions to use to raise awareness

- **Tobacco-free Colleges**

- Increase the number of tobacco-free college campuses in Rhode Island.
- Goals:
 - Gather preexisting tobacco-free campus resources and build a comprehensive section of the TFRI website to store the information
 - Connect college students interested in helping their campus go tobacco-free with the DOH TCP program and with other advocates on their campus as well as potential resources available
 - Work with TFRI Youth Advisory Board members that are graduating high school and provide them with the assistance and resources they need to begin building awareness about going tobacco-free on their future college campuses
 - Utilize other organizations such as the RI Public Health Association to reach students that may be interested in making their campus tobacco-free
 - Maintain a tracking sheet of tobacco-free campuses in Rhode Island that is available on the TFRI website.
- Increase Tobacco Control program funding
 - Allocate 2.5% of Tobacco Tax Revenue to the Tobacco Control Program. Funding will be used for; but not limited to, education, prevention programming and to fund cessation services
 - Goals:
 - Work with ACS CAN (lead on this endeavor)
 - Mobilize youth advocates for advocacy days
 - Strategize on where additional funds would come from to increase
- Local Tobacco Retail License (maintain and sustain / reactive)
 - RI Model Tobacco Policy prohibits tobacco product discounting and limits flavored tobacco products because of their low cost and appeal to youth.
 - CDC Recommended Point of Sale strategies: high tobacco prices and taxes; limiting youth access to tobacco products; strong local laws directed at retailers, active enforcement of retailer sales laws, and retailer education
 - Goals:
 - Maintain and sustain current tobacco retail licenses until active lawsuits have subsided. At that point in time, strategize and determine next steps.
 - Make edits to preexisting factsheets about effectiveness of TRLs

Discussion about One Pager to Educate Legislators

- Tobacco Free Rhode Island will be creating a one-pager designed to educate new and preexisting legislators about who TFRI is, how they can be of assistance, and to educate about the current tobacco landscape in Rhode Island.
- The group brainstormed some ideas on the content and dissemination plan:
 - Needs to be hand delivered to legislator mailboxes at the state house in January but also emailed digitally
 - TFRI can provide the resource to TFRI Network Partners so they can use it as a tool and provide to their personal legislators
 - Keep important information on the front side only (comment made about legislators not turning the page over)

- Content:
 - Tobacco Free Rhode Island Overview
 - Link to Network Partners and a mention about the number and how they reach every single community in RI
 - Fiscal impact tobacco has on RI (highlight CTFK info)
 - Visual representation of the tax revenue vs how much goes to RI Tobacco Control Program
 - Photos of youth activism
 - Tobacco 21 – states and communities that have already done so
- Dan, Geri, Jen, and Kristen will work together on the review of content. Final content will be sent to the Policy Workgroup as well as the draft of the graphic design work as well prior to finalization and dissemination

Annual Network Meeting

- The group discussed engagement at the Annual Network Meeting
- Each TFRI workgroup will have a 30 – 45 minute section at the end of the meeting to engage with potential new workgroup members
- The group decided that for the Policy Workgroup, they would do a walk through the policy priority areas and assess additional goals and tweaks to language. If time allows, the group will also discuss dissemination and engagement strategies for policy work
- Kristen also mentioned an idea of surveying network partners with untraditional questions that would give TFRI information about what the best workgroup may be to be a part of. At that point, Dan could use that info to reach out to Network Partners and recommend a workgroup for them
 - Dan will work with TFRI intern to create a draft of this

Next Steps

- Dan will work with M+R on updates the TRL and T21 factsheets with comments from meeting. Once updates have been made he will send out to the group
 - Doodle will be sent out to Kristen, Geri, Jen, and Dan to determine a time for a meeting to work on this one-pager
- Policy Workgroup will interact via email for the approval and dissemination of current information. In the winter, Dan will send out a doodle poll to find a time for a spring meeting.