WRIGHT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Minutes

Public Health Task Force

August 12, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. | GC 3103/Zoom

Attendees:

Members (marked box indicates Present):

☐ Ann Bajari (Excused)
☒ Ann Gonderinger
☒ Bonita Bryant (Vice Chair)
☐ Brad Gangnon (Absent)
☒ David Nelson
☒ Emmanuel Ngabire
☐ Jacquelyn Bergo (Absent)
☒ Jamie Stang
☐ Jeanne Holland (Excused)
☒ Dr. Jennifer Ray-Mader
☒ Dr. Kim Tjaden
☒ Linda Carlson
☐ Mark Daleiden (Absent)
☐ Marlene Kittock (Absent)
☒ Melissa Pribyl
☒ Mona Volden
☒ Toni Seroshek (Chair)

HHS Staff Attendees:

Alison Dudek
Becky Graham
Greg Wise
Joel Torkelson
Jon Young
Patty Larson
Sarah Grosshuesch

Guests/Other:

1. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair, Toni Seroshek
2. Introductions were made.
   a. Welcomed Ann Gonderinger, new PH Taskforce member.
3. Approval of the Agenda and the May minutes
   a. Correction on minutes, Item 4, c., (b)-correction of spelling error.
   b. Motion to approve June minutes (with correction) and the agenda by Bonita Bryant, second by Melissa Pribyl.
   c. Vote-All members approve of Agenda and Minutes.
4. Presentation and Discussion Items
   a. Immunizations-*Alison Dudek*
      - Wellness on Wheels schedule handed out. At a new location in Monticello at the Community Center instead of the high school.
      - We do immunizations at the Government Center.
      - We do immunizations for people who are uninsured or underinsured, both adults and children. We do flu shots for just about anyone. We do screenings of cholesterol, Hemoglobin A1c and blood pressure. We sell radon test kits and offer resources for services we may not provide. For immunizations we are seeing more adults coming in. The downside of that is that we don't have a federal program for adults like we do for children. We have a MIIC texting program. We send out text to parents of children who are 24-35 months of age

who are due or overdue for immunizations. We started this in February of this year after mailing out letters in previous years. Since February 38.7% of clients have received immunizations after receiving a text.

- In 2-3 weeks, we are doing a Teddy Bear clinic at the Buffalo Library. Children can bring in a stuffed animal and we will go over what happens at a doctor's office. We read a little story about what they might experience. There were about 30 kids that showed up last year.

b. SHIP Team-*Keith Bennett/Becky Graham*

- MN Breathes is one of four context areas. Becky Graham is the MN Breathes Strategy person for the SHIP grant. Here is the strategy breakdown:
  (a) Commercial Tobacco
    - ♦ Flavor restrictions
    - ♦ Advertisement restrictions
  (b) Point of Sale
    - ♦ Local ordinance
    - ♦ Clear education
    - ♦ Density and proximity
  (c) Smoke Free Policies
    - ♦ Smoke Free school grounds policies (schools, apts)
    - ♦ Signage
    - ♦ Quit support
- Counter Tool Audits
  (a) Using JUUL Settlement funds
  (b) Assess Wright County tobacco retailers
    - ♦ Density
    - ♦ Proximity to youth establishments
    - ♦ Product specifics-price, placement, promotion
    - ♦ Some THC assessment
- Out of that report they gave us four big headers:
  (a) Retailer Characteristics
    - ♦ Licensing and zooming are two of the most lasting strategies to impact the density, type, and location of commercia tobacco retailers.
    - ♦ Retailer density reduction strategies, such as capping the total number of retailers or requiring a minimum distance to schools, will have different impacts in different communities.
    - ♦ Of the 99 retailers assessed, 39% had exterior tobacco advertising.
  (b) Retailer Characteristics – Audit data (percent of retailers selling commercial tobacco products):
    - ♦ 98% cigarettes
    - ♦ 96% smokeless

- 81% Cigarillos, little cigars, or blunts
- 68% oral nicotine
- 62% E-cigarettes
- 10% Hookah

(c) Flavors & Menthol

- Flavored products are more appealing to youth and play a significant role in youth initiation.
- In 2023, 76% of Minnesota teens reported that the first commercial tobacco product they ever tried was flavored.
- Jurisdictions can prohibit where flavored products can be sold by store type, store location, or prohibit only certain flavored products.
- However, comprehensive restrictions that prohibit the sale of all flavored products without exemption is gold standard.

(d) Flavors & Menthol – Audit data (percent of retailers with flavored products):

- 97% Cigarettes (menthols)
- 95% Smokeless
- 80% Cigarillos, little cigars, or blunts
- 64% Oral nicotine
- 61% E-Cigarettes
- 9% Hookah

(e) Price & Promotions

- Increasing the price of cigarettes and other commercial tobacco products is one of the most effective ways to reduce consumption and initiation and increase smoking cessation.
  (i) For every 10% increase in the price of cigarettes, adult smoking decreases by 3-5%, and youth smoking decreases by 6-7%.
- The tobacco industry uses promotions, discounts, and coupons to decrease the cost of tobacco products.
- Localities can establish minimum floor prices to encourage price sensitive users to quit.
- Minimum price laws can be strengthened by pairing them with minimum pack size requirements and restricting coupons or discount.

(f) Price & Promotions – Audit data

- Average price for cigarettes in Wright County is $10.15 a pack and for single disposable E-cigs is $16.18.

(g) Youth Appeal

- Industry relies on recruiting youth to replace the 480,000 people in the US who die each year due to the use of their products.
- Direct targeting to youth is prohibiting but products are still designed and marketed in ways that are appealing to kids.

- ♦ States and localities can implement regulations that restrict the sale of flavored products or prohibit the use of coupons or discounts.
- ♦ Licensing and zoning laws can also reduce availability of products that appeal to youth by restricting retailer locations.

(h) Youth Appeal – Audit data

- ♦ Percentage of Retailers Appealing to Youth:
  - (i) 11%-ads within 3ft of the floor
  - (ii) 11%-near youth-oriented products
  - (iii) 18%-any e-cig self-service displays

- Local Ordinance Changes

(a) Ordinance 24-3 Public Hearing schedule 09/12/24

- ♦ Major changes:
  - (i) Amended purpose for the tobacco ordinance.
  - (ii) Increased the price of a single packaged cigar or cigarette (loosie) to $2.75.
  - (iii) Amended definitions.
  - (iv) Increased administrative penalties for ordinance violations.
  - (v) Required Instructional Program for all license holders, employees, and others affiliated with the sale of licensed products.
  - (vi) Adjustments to appeals and hearings process.

- Compliance Check Data

(a) Licensed Alcohol Establishments

- ♦ By Wright County: 7
- ♦ By Local Police Departments: 152
  - (i) Compliance passes in 2024: 111
  - (ii) Compliance failures in 2024: 18 so far

(b) Licensed Tobacco Establishments

- ♦ By Wright County: 85
- ♦ By Local Police Departments: 23
  - (i) Compliance passes in 2024: 103
  - (ii) Compliance failures in 2024: 14 so far

c. Community Conversations Report-*Greg Wise/Joel Torkelson*

- Purpose and Goals:

(a) Purpose:

- ♦ Gain a better understanding of why certain health behaviors, perceptions and beliefs exist within Wright County

(b) Goals:

- ♦ Better understanding data from community health survey
- ♦ Identify emerging health priorities

- Background and Methods
  (a) Focus groups offer a unique opportunity for community members to express their thoughts and opinions, based on their everyday experiences
  (b) CHA/CHIP Workgroup Planning – started in April 2023
  (c) Training – U of MN Mini-Lab
  (d) Question Development – 9 questions chosen
  (e) Conversations – Three in Feb and March 2024, 2 in person and 1 virtual, 1 with an audience who spoke Spanish
  (f) Evaluation – two notetakers present at each conversation, recordings decoded and analyzed
- Demographics
  (a) 17 of 19 participants provided demographic information
    - Majority of the participants were between the ages of 25-34, female, rent and have lived in Wright County between 1-5 years. It was close to being an even slip between Non-Hispanic and Hispanic people.
  (b) Findings
    - Mental Well-being-Strengths:
      (i) The Environment
      (ii) Social Connections
      (iii) Mental Health Resources
      (iv) Changing Conversations
    - Mental Well-being-Barriers:
      (i) Stress
      (ii) Limited Resources
      (iii) Stigma
    - Dental Access-Strengths:
      (i) Community Dental Care Clinic
      (ii) Positive Relationships
      (iii) Head Start
    - Dental Access-Barriers:
      (i) Cost
      (ii) Scheduling
      (iii) Distance
    - Substance Use-Strengths:
      (i) Not seeing drug use in public
    - Substance Use-Barriers:
      (i) Challenges for Youth
      (ii) Challenges for Community
      (iii) Challenges with Treatment

- Medical Access-Strengths:
  (i) Positive Experiences with Providers
  (ii) Lots of Resources
- Medical Access-Barriers:
  (i) Lack of Specialty Care
  (ii) Negative Experiences with Providers
- Emerging Health Topics:
  (i) Resources for Kids
  (ii) Financial
  (iii) Environmental Impact
  (iv) Equity/Population Growth
- Tone of Conversations
  (i) Mental Well-Being: Participants expressed feeling of frustration with "lack of resources" when discussing the topic. In contrast, some participants talk about more positive mental well-being in their community in contrast with placed they'd lived.
  (ii) Substance Use: The conversations were very emotional. Primary emotions exhibited were negative; sad, frustrated.
  (iii) Dental Access: The topic sparked an increase in voice volume of participants. Primary emotions were frustrated and resignation.
  (iv) Medical Access: Conversations were primarily positive.

(c) Discussion

- Broad Themes:
  (i) Residents like living in Wright County, but expressed there are improvement opportunities
  (ii) More resources are needed for our growing population
  (iii) People are not always feeling heard by decision makers, which impacts health on multiple levels
  (iv) These conversations gave participants an opportunity to be heard, which was appreciated.
- Recommendations from Participants
  (i) Improved access to payment plans
  (ii) Increased communication with community leaders
  (iii) Wraparound support for drug treatment
  (iv) More activities for kids and support for parents
  (v) More accessible mental health providers in area
  (vi) Change community perception and social norms around substance use

(d) Next Steps

- Advocate and amplify voices of community members

- Utilize findings in next Community Health Assessment
- Continuing community conversations

d. Marijuana Update-*Sarah Grosshuesch*

- As a county we have been meeting with other departments and administration and the county attorney's office and our city and townships working to get on the same page for some processes because each local jurisdiction can approve licenses. We got the draft rules last week. The comment period is open so we are looking at that see what would like to change. The county still needs to adapt ordinances as far as Planning and Zoning ordinances as well as an ordinance regulating density. We can regulate the number of shops in the county and each of our cities and townships should also regular the number of places. Right now, the county is operating under a moratorium for the establishment of any cannabis business. We are examining some licensing software to help us keep everything straight.

5. New Business
   a. None.
6. Old Business
   a. None.
7. Other
   a. None.
8. Agenda Items for the next meeting, October 14, 2024
   a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)
   b. Strategic Plan Update
9. Adjourn
   a. Motion to adjourn by Dave Nelson, second by Melissa Pribyl.
   b. Adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

pl/sg