

Tobacco Use Policy Task Force Minutes of January 28, 2010 Meeting

Task Force members present:

Bonnie Gruber, Carol Larson, Shauna Eull, Gloria Mitchell, Nancy Gale, Jean Juelich, Susan Brettschneider, John Cacich

Community members present: Susan Johnson, Anoka County Community Health, Cindy Tranby, Anoka County Community Health, Dennis Hill, Association for Nonsmokers - MN, ANSR, Jeanne Weigum, ANSR.

Task Force members absent, Justin Gunn, Wendy Meyer, Mary Allenson

Each task force member received a briefing binder containing: A summary of the SHIP intervention, information about Anoka County Community Health & Environmental Services, ANSR, lists of smoke-free campus policies, American College Health Association position statement on tobacco on college and university campuses, legal commentary by Kerry Cork, J.D., sample policies, review of MnSCU tobacco use policies, and A Union Guide to Tobacco: Tobacco & Labor Unions and cessation materials.

The task force meeting was called to order by John Cacich and, following introductions, he reviewed the current policy and charge to the task force. Anoka Technical College has a tobacco use policy on campus: *The facilities and vehicles at Anoka Tech are tobacco-free. Use of any tobacco products is permitted ONLY in the designated area in the courtyard adjacent to the Student Center.* The task force is charged with evaluating the current policy in light of the trend for campuses nationwide and in the MnSCU system to adopt tobacco-free policies. The task force will look at policy options ranging from no change to a tobacco-free policy with the likelihood of change taking an incremental approach. The task force will make their recommendations which will then be reviewed by the Student Senate, faculty advisory group and unions. The final decision will be made by the administration.

Overview of the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), Cindy Tranby. The Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), an integral part of Minnesota's nation-leading 2008 health reform law, strives to help Minnesotans lead longer, healthier lives by preventing the chronic disease risk factors of tobacco use and exposure, poor nutrition and physical inactivity. SHIP seeks to create sustainable, systemic changes in schools, worksites, communities and health care organizations that make it easier for Minnesotans to incorporate healthy behaviors into their daily lives. There was a competitive grant process where Anoka County Community Health and Environmental Services, along with County Commissioners and the Community Leadership Team, chose the tobacco-free schools intervention as one of the six interventions that they are working on. Sue Johnson stated that all activities of the SHIP Intervention will be evaluated.

Overview of tobacco-free campus work, Dennis Hill. Tobacco-free campuses are becoming much more common. There are currently 21 tobacco-free or smoke-free campuses in Minnesota: Argosy University, **Bethel University***, **Dakota County Technical College,**** **Itasca Community College**, **Lake Superior College**, Minnesota State University - Moorhead, **Minnesota West Community and Technical College - Worthington**, **Northwest Technical College**, Northwestern Health Sciences University, **Northwestern College**, *Rainy River Community College*, Rasmussen College - Waite Park, **Ridgewater College - Willmar**, **Ridgewater College -**

Hutchinson, Riverland Community College (Albert Lea, Austin, Owatonna), Rochester Community and Technical College, University of Minnesota-Crookston, University of Minnesota-Duluth, and Winona State University. Eleven colleges in the MnSCU system are tobacco free. St. Catherine University will go tobacco-free in August 2010. ***Bold are known to be tobacco-free vs. smoke-free** ** *MnSCU school*

Reasons typically given for adopting a tobacco-free policy include: protecting students and staff from secondhand smoke, supporting healthy life-style decisions, controlling health care costs, and reducing litter and cleaning costs.

Next Steps: Jeanne Weigum. The ANSR and community health team are a resource to the task force. Based on experience it is very important for the work of the task force to be transparent by informing the campus community of its work through the unions, student senate, campus web site and other standard communications mechanisms. Many campuses survey their students, faculty and staff to determine their interest in revising their tobacco policy with an on-line tool such as survey monkey. ANSR will provide examples of surveys done by other schools and a list of questions for possible use by the college.

Discussion: The task force requested that a representative from Dakota County Technical College be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the revision of their tobacco use policy and their route to implementation. They would also like to study the surveys done by other schools. The student senate might like to have a presentation in March and Dennis Hill offered to meet with any/all of the unions to go over the policy rationale and options.

Assignments: Jeanne will create a draft of minutes and provide them to Carol Larson to fill in blanks and distribute. Dennis will arrange for a Dakota County Technical College speaker for the next meeting. Dennis will prepare a draft of a tobacco use survey for the task force to review. Carol Larson will coordinate scheduling of the next meeting of the task force.