

# Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

## E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

January 2007, Volume 2, Issue 1

Welcome to the TFKC E-Newsletter for those interested or involved in tobacco control in Kansas. We would like to hear your comments and ideas for future issues. See the “Sign Up” information on the previous page to receive this e-newsletter every month.

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### Important TFKC Meeting in Topeka January 25

The next statewide meeting of the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition will cover topics including upcoming legislative initiatives — master settlement funding for tobacco control, the smokefree state initiative and plans for a tobacco free school grounds bill. Tools and strategies will be provided by Coalition partners.

Thursday, **January 25 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon**; StormontVail Health Care - **Pozez Education Center**; Centennial Rooms A & D, 1500 SW 10th\* - **Topeka**

Following the meeting, advocates may chose to visit with policymakers at the Capitol. (Be sure to call ahead for an appointment — see [www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/vote](http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/vote) to locate your legislators, as well as their telephone number, e-mail address and committee assignments.)

### Synar Compliance Rate Improves

At 80.1 percent, the Kansas compliance rate concerning the sale of tobacco to minors is improved from a 62 percent compliance rate recorded in 2004. The federal Synar Amendment requires states to maintain a compliance rate of 80 percent or better. When Kansas fell below the required target in 2004, it used penalty funds to institute a comprehensive set of strategies that improved retailer compliance and protect youth from addiction to nicotine.

Kansas has engaged both state and local partners to prevent the sale of tobacco to minors. In addition to enhanced enforcement, communities mobilized to reach retailers through education and incentives. A statewide campaign entitled, “It’s Everybody’s Business,” provides resource materials for retailers to train clerks. Additionally, a statewide incentive-based program was launched during the past year to both educate and reward positive actions by clerks who do the right thing by not selling tobacco to Kansas youth.

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### The Latest on Kansas Clean Air Initiatives

An effort to amend or postpone the **Garden City** clean air ordinance was turned back by the city commission. The smokefree ordinance went into effect on January 8.

On January 9, **Derby** city commissioners held a hearing on a draft of a smokefree ordinance, but a majority of members seem hesitant to adopt such a policy until Wichita adopts a similar policy. Further discussion of the matter will be held in coming months.

### State Gets Failing Grades in ALA Annual Tobacco Control Report

The American Lung Association State of Tobacco Control 2006 report shows Kansas received failing grades for another year. The annual tobacco control report card issued by ALA graded the 50 states, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico in four categories: smokefree air, tobacco taxes, prevention funding and restrictions on youth access to tobacco products.

The report gave Kansas the following grades:

- Smokefree air - Grade: F
- Tobacco taxes - Grade: D
- Tobacco prevention and control spending - Grade: F
- Youth access to tobacco products - Grade: F

The report noted that the Centers for Disease Control recommendation is that Kansas spend at least \$18 million each year on tobacco use prevention, but in fiscal year 2007 provides only \$3.6 million.

The report mentions the comprehensive smoke-free worksite ordinances passed in Olathe and Overland Park, but says that the state law does not provide adequate protection from secondhand smoke for the majority of Kansans. Sixteen states are now considered to be smoke-free, up from just two states in 2002 and nearly double the nine states that were smoke-free in 2005 – a nine-fold increase in just four years.

Kansas also has fallen behind in its cigarette tax rate, currently at \$.79 per pack, when the national average is \$1.00 per pack with New Jersey at the top spot at \$2.755 per pack.

Kansas was cited for failing to protect youth from easy access to tobacco because it does not require random checks for underage sales, photo identification for purchase and cigarettes to be out of reach of customers.

The American Lung Association report also found the following:

A record 26 states and the District of Columbia earned passing grades (“C” or better) for having laws that make workplaces free of tobacco smoke. Unfortunately, another 23 states received “F” grades in that category.

While overall funding for tobacco prevention and cessation programs increased in 2006, 34 states received “F” grades for the amount they spend to help people avoid smoking or quit.

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Only nine states received “A” grades for spending a significant amount on smoking prevention and cessation, up from six states in 2005.

### TASK Grant Application

A Request For Proposal for TASK’s *Smokeless Does Not Mean Harmless* grant is now available. In 2007, TASK will award up to 12 grants to established local youth groups committed to tobacco use prevention, specifically targeting spit tobacco use.

The grants, which will be distributed among youth groups from the central, western and eastern regions of Kansas, are offered to design public education campaigns focusing on the dangers of spit tobacco at events such as county fairs, parades and rodeos.

Awards will be made based on availability of funds. Youth groups associated with schools, churches, teen centers and community groups or other agencies are encouraged to apply. Each youth group that receives an award will become an affiliated group of TASK, as a TASK Company.

Funding is available for up to \$5,000 per applicant. The **application deadline is Friday, January 19**. Grantees will be announced Monday, February 5.

Funding for the individual grants is provided by the Sunflower Foundation as part of the Smokeless Does Not Mean Harmless grant. KDHE’s Tobacco Use Prevention Program outreach coordinators provide staffing and Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition is the financial entity for the grant.

### Save the Date

#### Legislative Hearings:

**January 17:** SB 37, a statewide smokefree law (see [www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/57.pdf](http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/57.pdf)) before the Judiciary committee at 9:30 am in room 123-S in the State Capitol;

**TBA:** A bill to prohibit tobacco use on K-12 school grounds should be introduced shortly;

**January 31:** A hearing on health issues, including tobacco prevalence, will be heard before the Senate Health Care Task Force, at 12 PM, room to be announced.

#### Upcoming Partner Meetings with a tobacco use component:

**January 17:** Kansas Cancer Partnership re: the Kansas Comprehensive Cancer Plan, Topeka

**January 24** Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, Legislative Day, Topeka

**January 31** American Cancer Society Legislative Day, Topeka; KDHE Pre-bidders meeting, Salina

**February 1** American Heart Association Wear Red Legislative Day, Topeka

**February 2** Kansas Family Partnership Red Ribbon Luncheon, Topeka

**February 20** Kansas Family Partnership’s Earned Media Workshop for tobacco control partners, Topeka

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