



Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition
E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

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Internet Tobacco Control and Health Resource Links

Regional

Clean Air Kansas City
Clean Air Lawrence
Clean Air Manhattan
Reno County Tobacco Free
Central Kansas Foundation (Salina)
Tobacco Free Wichita

State

KDHE Tobacco Use Prevention
TASK
Cancer Kansas
It's Everybody's Business
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
Kansas Public Health Association
Kansas Health Institute

National

CDC Tobacco & Health
Tobacco.Org
Americans for Non-Smokers Rights
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids
Tobacco Control Network
American Cancer Society
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
National Cancer Institute

July 31—Statewide Coalition Meeting

The next statewide Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition meeting is set for Thursday, July 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Newton (Harvey County). That area has seen several effective clean indoor air policies passed in the past year. The meeting will be at McKinley Administrative Center (aka McKinley School) at 308 East First in Newton. A box lunch will be provided for those attending.

The focus of the meeting will be on clean indoor air efforts at both the national and state level. Keynote speaker is Cindy Wostrel Jeffrey, Executive Director of Health Education Inc. Cindy has advocated for tobacco control policies for the past 14 years in Nebraska. Her work has included advocating for local smoke-free worksite policies, including Lincoln's comprehensive smoke-free ordinance, as well as for the Nebraska Clean Indoor Air Act of 2008. Her presentation is entitled "Maneuvering the Road to Smoke-Free Success: Reaching the Destination Despite Potholes and Detours and Goodhearted but Reckless Drivers."

In addition, Coalition members will redefine legislative priorities for the coming year, learn how to apply for grant opportunities, help set up networks for connecting tobacco control advocates across the state and welcome the TFKC board members for the 2009 fiscal year.

Please RSVP to tjohnston@tobaccofreekansas.org to reserve a lunch. Check the TFKC Web site for the full agenda and other details, including driving directions.

TFKC Board Members to be Selected

A new slate of officers will be installed at the July 31 annual meeting. The slate of officers was selected by the Nomination Committee composed of Joan Smith, past president and Manhattan-Riley County Health Department; Ginger Park with the tobacco prevention program with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; Sonja Armbruster with the Sedgwick County Health Department; and Jon Hauxwell, past president and tobacco prevention and cessation advocate from Hays.

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The mission of Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition is to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use among Kansans, particularly among children and youth, to improve health and to avoid the negative economic impact of tobacco use.



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The slate has **Lisa Benlon** of the American Cancer Society remaining as president, **Linda DeCoursey** of the American Heart Association moving to the vice president position, **Kathy Bruner**, Clean Air Lawrence, serving another year as secretary, and **Terri Roberts** with the Kansas State Nurses' Association assuming the treasurer's slot.

Regional representatives who have been nominated to serve a second term are Dr. **Jim Gardner** with Clean Air Manhattan for north central Kansas, **Tricia Dunlap**, Rooks County Health Department for northwest Kansas, and **Nicole Brown**, Johnson County Health Department for northeast Kansas. New regional representatives include **Shirley Voran**, teacher at Dodge City High School for southwest Kansas, **Rita Flickinger**, Harvey County Health Department for south central Kansas, and **Misty Burke** with the Regional Prevention Center at Greenbush for southeast Kansas.

Leaving the board this year, with the thanks of the Coalition for their services, are Michele Correll from southwest Kansas and Maranda Collins from southeast Kansas. As provided in the bylaws, a ballot will be sent to TFKC members via e-mail with the slate of officers. The TFKC bylaws also require the founding organizations to be represented on the board. Paula Marmet with Kansas Department of Health and Environment and an appointee from the American Lung Association also will serve as board members for the coming year.

New Grant Opportunities for TFKC

The **Kansas Health Foundation*** again has provided Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition a core funding grant for tobacco control organizational efforts. The one-year grant provides \$189,500 in funds for staff salaries and office needs as well as related tobacco control meetings, presentations and trainings.

This year, the **Kansas Health Foundation** has awarded TFKC a four-year grant for \$1,095,460 for TFKC to increase its capacity to work for programs and policies that will decrease tobacco use rates for both adults and youth. The first year of

the grant provides \$256,176 in funding to assist the Coalition in mobilizing and educating communities on clean indoor air policies and in increasing the number of active TASK youth tobacco prevention groups across the state.

Under the grant, TFKC will employ another full-time staff member to assist with community mobilization and youth projects. TFKC also will contract for clean indoor air trainings and technical support and provide community grants for both clean indoor air projects and youth empowerment efforts.

* The Kansas Health Foundation is a philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans. Based in Wichita, the Foundation's assets total more than \$528 million with more that \$24 million paid out annually in the areas of children's health, leadership, public health and policy. For more information about the Kansas Health Foundation, visit www.kdanshealth.org.

The **Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation** will provide approximately \$100,000 in funding for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's tobacco prevention and cessation program and for TFKC to develop youth media products, with youth partners designing and helping to produce a variety of a media projects on clean indoor air from a youth perspective.

The **American Legacy Foundation** "truth or consequences" grant for youth programming will soon announce training sessions for youth in 27 rural counties located in north central, south central and southwest Kansas. This project also provides youth-facilitated trainings for youth, including many from Upward Bound and Talent Search programs. It will set up youth mini-grants for media projects for youth groups from these counties.

Kansas hasn't passed a smoke-free law, but ...

A study published in May by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention underscores the powerful momentum across the country to pass strong smoke-free workplace laws that protect all workers and the public from the serious health hazards of secondhand smoke. This study should spur every state and community to pass smoke-free laws

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that protect all workers from this entirely preventable health hazard, including restaurant, bar and casino workers who are especially at risk of exposure to high concentrations of secondhand smoke. Everyone has the right to breathe clean air, and no one should have to put their health at risk in order to earn a living or enjoy a night out.

According to the CDC study, published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, the number of states with strong smoke-free laws tripled and the number with no such laws was halved between 2005 and 2007. During the study period, 18 states strengthened smoke-free protections in private sector worksites, 18 states strengthened protections in restaurants and 12 states strengthened protections in bars (there was some overlap in these states). No state weakened smoke-free protections.

Since the study period, several more states have enacted smoke-free laws that include restaurants and bars. Today, 24 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have enacted such laws. The states are: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and Washington. Once these laws are fully implemented, more than 53 percent of the U.S. population will live in jurisdictions with smoke-free laws that include restaurants and bars.

Michigan and Pennsylvania have the most immediate opportunities to join the growing list of smoke-free states and communities, according to the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. In Michigan, the state House should vote to concur with the comprehensive smoke-free legislation recently passed by a wide margin in the state Senate. In Pennsylvania, a legislative conference committee should approve legislation that rejects exemptions for bars and casinos and grants local governments the authority to enact their own, stronger smoke-free laws.

Background on secondhand smoke

Smoke-free laws are an appropriate and necessary response to the overwhelming and

growing evidence that secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard. In issuing a groundbreaking report on secondhand smoke in June 2006, U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona stated, "The debate is over. The science is clear: Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance, but a serious health hazard that causes premature death and disease in children and nonsmoking adults." Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including at least 60 carcinogens. The Surgeon General found that secondhand smoke is a proven cause of lung cancer, heart disease, serious respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis and asthma, low birth weight and sudden infant death syndrome. The Surgeon General also found that secondhand smoke is responsible for tens of thousands of deaths in the United States each year, there is no safe level of exposure, and only smoke-free laws provide effective protection from secondhand smoke.

The evidence is also clear that smoke-free laws protect health without harming business. As the Surgeon General concluded, "Evidence from peer-reviewed studies shows that smoke-free policies and regulations do not have an adverse impact on the hospitality industry."

It's time for every state and community to protect everyone's right to breathe clean air. The CDC study can be found at www.cdc.gov/mmwr.

Latest Additions to the Smokefree Ranks

Prairie Village's City Council passed a comprehensive smoke free ordinance June 16. Beginning August 1, all workplaces including restaurants, bars and private clubs will be smoke free. While the council originally considered a private club exemption, the council ultimately decided that all workers deserved to be protected.

The state's largest health insurer, **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas**, went smoke-free on July 1. The company employs 1,450 people in Topeka and 10 field offices and will ban tobacco at its workplaces.

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“Implementing a tobacco-free policy sends a strong message that we care about the health and safety of our employees,” said Graham Bailey, vice president of corporate communications and public relations. “We cannot be credible in promoting the importance of health and wellness to our employer groups and members if we are not first willing to tackle the big issues ourselves.”

Use of tobacco products will be banned on any owned or leased company property, in company cars or on company-paid break times.

The Midwest’s new statewide smokefree law took effect July 1 in **Iowa**. According to Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights, the new smokefree law is on track and is a powerful symbol of a healthier, more vibrant future in the Midwest. Thanks to Iowa, the majority of the U.S. population now lives in areas with smokefree bars. This is a milestone achievement in the nonsmokers’ rights movement - especially for hospitality industry workers fighting for clean air in the workplace.

Tobacco Control Conference Set for October 13-14

The third Tobacco Free Kansas Tobacco Control Conference will be held this year at the Marriott Hotel in Overland Park October 13 to 14. The conference will feature plenary sessions, including: Dr. Mike Burke, cessation services with the Mayo Clinic, on cessation efforts; Admiral John Babb, Region VII Administrator with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and Dana Shelton, Associate Director, Policy, Planning and Coordination, with the Centers for Disease Control and Health Promotion.

The conference will have breakout sections in the areas of education, advocacy and cessation, with an additional youth-focused track presented on Monday, October 13.

More information will be provided on the workshops and the presenters as the tobacco control community gathers to celebrate successes and to learn new strategies to reduce the health, economic and human costs of tobacco addiction and exposure to secondhand smoke.

Keep in mind that there will be opportunities for poster presentations and award nominations as part of the conference.

New KDHE Tobacco Use Prevention Director Named

Candace Ayars has been named the director for the Tobacco Use Prevention Program with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. She has a Ph.D. in community health services from the University of Texas. There is more information about the appointment on the [Kansas Health Institute](#) Web site.

Did you know?

Looking for something you saw on the TFKC listserv but you deleted it? Did you know that all posts to the listserv are archived on our [Yahoo Groups](#) site?