

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

July 2006, Volume 1, Issue 6

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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Cancer Forums to be held across Kansas

You are invited to attend a Cancer Forum at a location near you this summer sponsored by the Kansas Cancer Partnership and the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition.

These informational meetings will help establish community support for reducing the burden of cancer in the state. Nearly 12,000 Kansans were diagnosed with the disease in 2004. The cost of cancer also is staggering - more than \$1.6 billion each year in direct medical costs and lost productivity due to illness and premature death. Much of this cost is paid in the form of public dollars through medical assistance for uninsured and underinsured Kansans.

Since the Kansas Cancer Plan was published in March 2005, an effort to address cancer in the state has begun, however, much work remains. The meetings scheduled this summer will garner local support and coordinate the efforts of the Cancer Partnership and TFKC. The goal is to bring a coordinated approach to current efforts in the areas of research, prevention and treatment in statewide and community programs. **Reduction in the prevalence of tobacco use will be a key element of the proposals.**

Thank you to the more than 50 cancer control and tobacco control advocates who came to Salina on June 19 to set the framework for this coordinated effort to implement comprehensive cancer control and tobacco use control programs and improve public health in Kansas.

The forums, including a complimentary lunch, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- July 26, Garden City, St. Catherine's Hospital, 410 East Spruce
- July 27, Hays, Hays Medical Center, 2202 Canterbury Dr
- July 31, Salina, Tammy Walker Cancer Center, 515 S Santa Fe
- August 1, Kansas City, National Cancer Institute, 2100 W 36th Ave

New Surgeon General's Report on Involuntary Smoking

In releasing the new report on June 27 U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona said, "The debate is over. The science is clear. **Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance but a serious health hazard.**"

The report concluded that separate smoking sections don't cut it: Only smoke-free buildings and public places truly protect nonsmokers from the hazards of breathing in other people's tobacco smoke. This is the first report that the Surgeon General has released on secondhand smoke since 1986.

Some 126 million nonsmokers are exposed to secondhand smoke, what Surgeon General Carmona repeatedly calls "involuntary smoking" that puts people at increased risk of death from lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.

A media conference was held by KDHE that same day at noon to share the report's findings. KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby said 11 Kansas municipalities had passed smoking bans and about 12 were in the process of drafting ordinances.

Secretary Bremby encouraged more municipalities to enact workplace smoking bans, citing a peer review study from the surgeon general that said municipalities aren't economically affected by smoking bans.

Many Kansas newspapers have editorialized on the importance of going smokefree in public places as a result of the new report.

Tom Kean to speak at conference

Tom Kean will serve as a plenary speaker for Kansas Public Health Association meeting September 28 in Topeka. The meeting is co-sponsored by TFKC.

His presentation is titled *Public Health Programs Working Together: Good for our Citizens; Good for Outcomes; Good for each Program.*

Tom Kean, who has previously done strategic planning with TFKC, is the newly named director of C- Change, formerly the National Dialogue on Cancer.

The organization's partners are united to eliminate cancer as a major public health problem.

Time to Renew Your TFKC Membership

Membership renewal notices have been sent to both individual and organization members. Please complete the information and return your membership payment as soon as possible. Thank you.

Smoke-free bowling doesn't hurt business

The Bowling Proprietors Association of America, Inc. (BPAA) issued a statement acknowledging that, "the majority of centers who have experienced restricted or complete smoking bans for more than two years reported positive impacts and outcomes that were different from their expectations.

"Loss of business is a fear of bowling proprietors. This study found that fewer bowlers smoke than is believed, and that the rate at which they would leave is lower than the general perception.

The 1997 Bowling Benchmark Strategy study concluded that the smoky environment was among the top reasons people chose not to bowl, a fact sometimes forgotten.

The article quotes BPAA members. BPAA was formerly a partner of the Philip Morris Options program, and as such, was an opponent of smokefree environments.

Poster will be displayed at APHA conference

Congratulations to Becky Tuttle, KDHE. Her abstract "Treating tobacco use during pregnancy and beyond" has been selected for poster presentation during the 134th Annual Meeting & Exposition of the American Public Health Association on November 4-8 in Boston, MA.

The presentation will be part of the Important Issues in Tobacco Control Poster Session III, scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2006 at 4:30 PM.

Save the Date

The **Kansas Tobacco Control Summit 2006** - Unite, Inform, Empower - will be held **November 13-14** at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita.

The annual **Kansas Public Health Association Conference** "*Speaking a Common Language*" *The New Voice of Public Health* is **September 26-28** at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka.

Please share this newsletter with others interested in tobacco control in Kansas. The TFKC electronic newsletter will be distributed monthly to your e-mail. Please report a change of your e-mail address to TFKC .

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