

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

June 2007, Volume 2, 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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Kansas Supreme Court Upholds Lawrence Smoking Ban

In a unanimous decision released Friday, June 22, the Supreme Court said cities have the power to ban smoking in public places, rejecting a bar owner’s legal challenge to an ordinance enacted in Lawrence three years ago.

The Supreme Court disagreed with Dennis Steffes’ argument that the 2004 city law is unconstitutional because it is too vague to be enforced evenly. The justices also said the ban doesn’t do more than a Kansas law allows in granting cities the authority to regulate smoking.

“The Legislature has expressly acknowledged that cities may regulate smoking,” Justice Lawton Nuss wrote in the court’s opinion. “The Legislature has invited cities to regulate smoking in public places to the maximum extent possible.”

TFKC hopes this ruling will encourage other cities and counties that are considering a smoke free ordinance to proceed and improve the health of their communities. Strong smoke free laws –like the Lawrence ordinance – that include all workplaces, including restaurants and bars, are the only effective way to protect all workers and the public from the serious health hazards of secondhand smoke. This Supreme Court decision also may hasten the passage of an effective statewide smokefree law.

Next Statewide Coalition Meeting July 12

The next Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition statewide meeting will be held Thursday, July 12, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the Relays Room (3rd Floor) at Burge Union on the campus of Kansas University in Lawrence. The meeting also will be available by video conferencing at several sites for those not traveling to Lawrence. The address for Burge Union is 1601 Irving

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Hill Road (Burge Union is located near Allen Field House). Some parking passes will be available to the earliest arrivals. Parking is charged for a fee ranging up to \$6.50. Lunch will not be provided. You may bring your own lunch or purchase food from the cafe inside Burge Union.

The agenda includes reviewing the year's Coalition activities, focusing on clean indoor air strategies and tools, followed by a business meeting with a discussion on bylaws, including elimination of membership fees, and installation of new Board of Directors members. Materials on the slate for the board of directors and possible bylaws changes will be sent to voting members this week.

For printable materials regarding the meeting, such as the agenda, driving directions to Burge Union, site locations for video conferencing,, the nominating committee's proposed slate of officers and proposed bylaw changes, please visit the TFKC website at <http://www.tobaccofreekansas.org/home/statewidemeeting.shtml>.

The available video conference sites are listed below:

Salina - KDHE District Office, 2501 Marketplace, Ste D

Wichita - KDHE District Office, 130 S. Market, 6th Floor

Pittsburg - Area Health Education Center, 1501 S. Joplin, Shirk Hall, 4th Floor

Garden City - St. Catherine Hospital, 401 E. Spruce

Hays - KDHE District Office, 2301 E. 13th Street

RSVP at 785-272-8396 or email tjohnston@tobaccofreekansas.org

New TFKC Grant Opportunity for Community Clean Air Efforts Available Soon

Grant funding of \$20,000 will be available shortly for community coalitions, allied with a non-profit organization of local health or prevention agency, for collaborative initiatives to promote clean indoor air policies in public places to reduce the exposure of local residents and workers to the toxins of secondhand smoke.

Several grants will be awarded, depending on the number of applications and the readiness of the communities and the local coalitions to work on clean indoor air efforts. Grants may range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 depending on the needs of the coalition.

A TFKC What Works Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation will provide funding for educational grant activities. The Request for Proposals will be posted to the TFKC Listserv in the next week, with an application return date of August 10.

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CDC Reports Smoking Prohibited in 3 of 4 U.S. Homes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study for World No Tobacco Day in May showing that today 72.2 percent of America's homes take it outside, compared to 43 percent a decade ago. In Kansas, the report (using 2003 figures) showed 66.9 percent of Kansas homes were smokefree, a 68 percent improvement over 1993's report.

Utah led the nation, with nearly 9 out of 10 homes not allowing smoking indoors. The state in last place was Kentucky with just over half of the homes smokefree. But even Kentucky showed marked improvement over the decade as only about one-quarter of the homes were smokefree in 1993.

"That really says that people are starting to understand the hazards of secondhand smoke," said Dr. Corinne Husten, co-author of the study and chief of the epidemiology branch of the CDC's Office of Smoking and Health. The full report is found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5620a3.htm>

According to the most recent Kansas Adult Tobacco Survey done by KDHE, 94 percent of adult Kansans believe that secondhand smoke is harmful.

Barton County Fair Proclaims Smokefree Day

The Barton County (Great Bend) Fair Board has proclaimed Saturday, July 14 as Tobacco-Free Kids Day at the Fair. Special events are planned for that day, sponsored by the Heartland TASK group and the Barton County Health Department.

Photo at right: Barton County Fair Board members and Janel Rose (upper right), Heartland TASK sponsor with the Barton County Health Department, at the proclamation signing.

Kansas Youth Tobacco Survey Released

The 2005/2006 Kansas Youth Tobacco Survey by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Tobacco Prevention Program, shows that five percent of middle school youth say they are current smokers and 21 percent of high school students say they are smoking.

A finding of the survey is that social acceptance is one reason cited by youth for smoking. Of current middle school smokers, 30 percent believe smokers have more friends while only 12 percent of all students think smokers have more friends. Among high school students this belief is shared by 29 percent of current smokers and only 18 percent of all high school students.

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The survey found that 28 percent of middle school smokers thought the habit was safe if you smoked for a year or two; 30 percent of high school smokers shared this belief.

The complete survey can be found at http://www.kdheks.gov/tobacco/download/Statewide_2006_YTS_Results.pdf

TASK Mini-Grant Recipients for This Year

Twenty-two youth groups across the state have received grants of from \$5,000 to \$3,000 in the *Smokeless Does Not Mean Harmless* program of TFKC and KDHE's Tobacco Use Prevention Program. The mini-grants from TFKC were provided through funding from the Sunflower Foundation.

Youth groups awarded grants from TFKC funding are:

- Meade High School Key Club**, Meade County
- Heartland TASK**, Barton County
- Cowley County Teens Against Tobacco**, Cowley County
- YES Barber County**, Barber County
- STAY (Stop Tobacco Among Youth)**, Woodson & Allen Counties
- Allen County 4-H Who's Who**, Allen County
- S.W.A.T. (Students Working Against Tobacco)**, Lyon County
- Oakland UMC**, Shawnee County
- Melvorn Youth Pride**, Osage County
- TRUCE and BRAG**, Ottawa County
- Smoke Free Tiger Task Force**, Rooks County
- Lane County Task**, Lane County
- Girl Scout Troop #842**, Cherokee County

Youth groups with grant funding from KDHE were:

- JCYC (Jackson County Youth Coalition)**, Jackson County
- Doniphan West Student Council**, Doniphan County
- Hiawatha TASK**, Brown County
- CYAT Team**, Greeley County
- Cloud County Task Force**, Cloud County
- Youth United**, Saline County
- HIP (Hispanics in Progress)**, Saline County
- Manhattan High School Teens Leading Teens**, Riley County
- Blue Valley Family, Career and Community Leaders of America**, Riley County

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Tobacco Topics at the Fall Conference of KPHA

The Kansas Public Health Association will hold its annual fall conference in Wichita from September 18 to 20 this year. Tobacco-related topics on the agenda include:

- A plenary panel at 8:00 a.m. September 20 on *Strategies in Tobacco Control: Winning the Tobacco War* with TFKC president Dr. Jon Hauxwell; Paula Marmet, director of the Office of Health Promotions at KDHE; Nicole Brown, Johnson County Health Department; and Linda DeCoursey, American Heart Association
- A breakout session at 3:30 p.m. September 19 on *Tobacco Cessation Treatment and Policy: New Horizons* with Kim Richter, Ed Ellerbeck and Won Choi
- A general session panel on public health advocacy at 10:30 a.m. on September 19 which includes Mary Jayne Hellebust, TFKC executive director

For more information and to register, go to http://www.kpha.us/documents/2007/2007_registration_brochure_on_web.rtf

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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