

# Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition

## E-Newsletter

Supporting Tobacco Control for Kansas

May 2007, Volume 2, Issue 5

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.

*We would like to hear your comments and ideas for future issues.*

## Today is World No Tobacco Day

Each year on May 31, the World Health Organization (WHO) sponsors **World No Tobacco Day** (WNTD), a day created to increase awareness of tobacco's deadly effects and to encourage governments to impose regulations on tobacco products. This year's slogan, "**Smoke-Free Environments**," draws attention to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and the need for 100% smoke-free environments in public and at home. This week Clean Air Manhattan will be putting up signs and flags along Claflin Avenue in the city. The signs will read "1,200 Americans died today from tobacco products" and there will be 1,200 flags. They did this two years ago. Bill Arck and Kelsey Berry are pictured placing flags in 2005. Additionally, on June 5, Manhattan High School Teens Leading Teens will accept a proclamation from the mayor in Recognition of World No Tobacco Day.

**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 Hill Road (Burge Union is located near Allen Field House). 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 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 in June. For printable materials regarding the meeting such as the agenda, driving directions to Burge Union, site locations for video conferencing, etc., please visit the TFKC website at [www.tobaccofreekansas.org](http://www.tobaccofreekansas.org). The available video conference sites are listed below:

## E-Newsletter

- **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

## Session Brings Changes to Tobacco Funding

The recent legislative session provided some appropriations to assist tobacco control in Kansas: SB 2368 continues the \$1 million in tobacco prevention funding for KDHE from Children's Initiative Funding. SB 357 allocates an additional \$400,000 in funding for SRS to continue its programming to reduce illegal tobacco sales to youth. Some changes will occur in these efforts due to the additional funding and some program realignments. The bill also allocates all "bonus" payment increases from the strategic contributions fund of the Master Settlement Agreement to KPERS for a special account within the Kansas Endowment for Youth Fund, with stipulations that no expenditures may be made without prior legislative approval. During the session, tobacco control advocates promoted SB 318, which would have allocated the entire bonus payment to tobacco prevention and cessation programs. With SB 357, this potential funding of \$16.8 million in FY 2008 went into a holding pattern without specific allocation to other programs after the conference committee agreed to remove the House's recommendation that the increase be set aside in a health care reserve fund. There is still much work for the next legislative session in securing more funding for tobacco prevention and cessation. However, this legislative session did provide an increase of \$400,000 for tobacco control efforts. Also, the governor is speaking of the possibility of a tax increase on cigarettes as a way to reduce smoking prevalence while funding health initiatives. It will be up to the people of Kansas to demonstrate that funding tobacco prevention and cessation programs from MSA and cigarette taxes is a logical and effective way to improve the health of all Kansans. A legislative interim committee has been asked to study the best ways to regulate exposure to secondhand smoke in Kansas.

## Lung Association Releases Report of State Laws

The 2006 edition of State Legislated Actions on Tobacco Issues (SLATI) has been released by the American Lung Association. A PDF copy of the report is available on the SLATI website at <http://slati.lungusa.org>. SLATI is the American Lung Association's compendium of state tobacco control laws released annually. The 2006 edition tracks key state tobacco control laws as of January 2, 2007. The 2006 SLATI report gave Kansas an "F" in Smokefree Air, Youth Access and Tobacco Prevention and Control Spending and a "D" in Cigarette Tax. Tobacco control advocates in Kansas recognize that tremendous progress has been made in individual communities on a variety of fronts that are not considered by the SLATI report. The SLATI website has an online version of SLATI that is updated throughout the year to reflect changes in tobacco control laws as they take effect.

E-Newsletter

## **TASK Trains about Smokeless Tobacco**

The Eastern Region TASK Board hosted a Smokeless Does Not Mean Harmless training on April 28 in Emporia. The event was attended by 24 people representing eight youth groups in Eastern Kansas. Groups at the event included: Yates Center High School Youth Coalition, Girl Scout Troop 842 (Columbus), Hiawatha Middle School, Allen County 4-H, Melvern Youth Pride, Jackson County Youth Coalition, Doniphan West High School Student Council and Students Working Against Tobacco (Emporia). Six Eastern Region TASK Board members, ranging in age from 13 to 17, presented the topics for the day which included: Smokeless Tobacco Questions and Answers, Community Mobilization and Policy Change, Talking Points, Suggested Activities and a Resources Session. Ginger Park, with the KDHE Tobacco Use Prevention Program, presented a session on Counter Marketing Basics and Tips for Working with Media, as well as Earned Media Tools. Corey Taylor ended the day, sending everyone home motivated to conduct smokeless tobacco use prevention activities in their respective communities.

An additional training will occur June 9 at Bethany College in Lindsborg. Check the TFKC website for registration information which should be submitted by June 1.

## **Institute of Medicine Calls for Stronger Measures**

Although smoking in the United States has declined by more than 50 percent since 1964, tobacco use still claims about 440,000 lives every year, and secondhand smoke causes another 50,000 deaths annually. Smoking-related health costs are estimated to be \$89 billion a year. To achieve faster, more certain reductions, revisions to current tobacco policy should be enacted, said a new report from the Institute of Medicine. Some of the proposals made in the report include:

- Increasing the federal excise tax on cigarettes substantially
- Dedicating \$15 to \$20 per capita annually to fund tobacco control efforts in each state.
- Imposing smoking bans in all nonresidential indoor settings nationwide
- Launching additional efforts aimed at curbing youth interest in smoking and access to tobacco
- Giving the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) broad regulatory authority over tobacco marketing, packaging and distribution
- Limiting tobacco advertising and promotional displays

Cigarettes are a unique consumer product in that they contain carcinogens and other dangerous toxins and would be banned under federal public health statutes if these statutes did not expressly exempt tobacco, the report states. Tobacco is the only legal product for which the government's stated goal is to suppress use altogether rather than to promote safe or responsible use.

## E-Newsletter

The desire to educate youth and limit their access to tobacco underlies many of the committee's recommendations because of the high rate at which teens start smoking. Most smokers start before they turn 18, and the rate of daily smoking among high school seniors has hovered around 20 percent for most of the past two decades. Adolescents generally recognize the harmful effects of smoking, but typically overestimate their ability to escape addiction and fail to appreciate fully the personal impact of the long-term health consequences, the report says.

More details about the report can be found at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/05/070524111246.htm>

## Kansans to Exhibit at National Conference

At this point, we know of at least five Kansas abstract submissions that have been selected for poster presentations at the 2007 National Conference on Tobacco or Health October 24-26 in Minneapolis

They are:

Anita Mason (Santana Hospital) with a poster titled "Beef Jerky System of Tobacco Control"

Saline County's presentation on how to prepare a community for social change at the grassroots level and what led to Salina being the first Kansas community to pass a public smoking ban.

And three from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment:

- "Smokeless Does Not Mean Harmless In Kansas."
- "Implementing and Sustaining A Focus On Priority Populations Through Systems Change" and
- "Toolbox for Tobacco Prevention Strategic Planning Among Priority Populations"

Congratulations to all for representing us so well! Please let us know if there are any groups whose submissions should be acknowledged.

## Coalition Receives Funding

We are pleased to announce the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition has again received a core funding grant from the Kansas Health Foundation for \$177,500 through March of 2007. The funding allows the Coalition to provide for staffing, networking and training opportunities for tobacco control advocates and to establish a structure to promote the reeducation of tobacco use in the state.



## E-Newsletter

The Kansas Health Foundation has shown its support for Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition since 1994, with the start of a partnership with The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Smokeless States Program.

## Save the Date

The **2007 National Conference on Tobacco or Health** will be held in Minneapolis, MN, **October 24-26**. For more information, click [here](#).

-----

The 2007 **Spit Tobacco Summit** has been scheduled for **August 29** at the Hutchinson Cosmosphere. The Summit is focused on youth, tobacco control advocates, oral health professionals, school nurses and anyone interested in making a difference about smokeless tobacco use in Kansas.

For additional information, contact Becky Tuttle, KDHE, 316-337-6056, [btuttle@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:btuttle@kdhe.state.ks.us)

---

**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 .**

Mary Jayne Hellebust, Executive Director  
Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition  
e-mail: [mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org](mailto:mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org)  
phone: 785-272-8396  
Web site: <http://tobaccofreekansas.org>