



**Clay County Collaborative
Substance Abuse Workgroup
March 2, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Jason welcomed everyone to the group.

Discussion items:

March 11th: Noon to 1pm Flavored Tobacco Lunch and Learn 2 speakers coming in to present on how tobacco companies target certain populations.

Flavored Tobacco:

Restrict vs Prohibit: If the group were to go to the city councils and county board and ask for a ban on selling flavored tobacco there would most likely be push back because it would shut down the current and any future adult tobacco stores. The request will be to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco to the adult smoke stores. Gas stations, grocery stores, etc. would not be allowed to sell them. There will also be language in the ordinance that prevents stores such as gas stations from doing an add on to their building, call it an adult smoke shop and allow them to keep selling the product. There would be a cap on how many licenses the city/county would have. The adult tobacco stores should, if they not protest a restriction ordinance because it will increase their business by being the only stores allowed to sell flavored tobacco.

Action on the restriction or prohibiting of coupon use will be placed on hold while some research is conducted on who in our area are using the coupons. In Minnesota, tobacco companies spend \$110 million on advertising. Of that amount, approximately \$77 million is used for coupons. The coupons are typically distributed electronically.

Federal action on Tobacco:

The House has passed a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco, including internet sales. It now moves to the house. If it passes, Jason will be working with that law as he shapes the ordinance for Clay County and its cities. If the law passes it would eliminate the sale of all flavored tobacco including menthol. Internet sales would not be allowed. The bill covers the sale of tobacco, not possession of the product. Tobacco companies are lobbying hard for it to not pass on the basis it will put them out of business. Speak to your senator today!

Minnesota:

The following legislative action is currently in discussion:

- The T-21 federal legislation action has gone through the House for approval. Next steps is the Senate and then the judiciary committee. There are enough votes to pass the bill. It looks like the bill will go through this year and will be signed into law sometime in 2020. The law would cover the furnishing of tobacco to anyone under the age of 21 but not possession which means our youth could go over to Fargo and purchase tobacco and there would be no consequences.
- Discussion on completely banning the sale of flavored tobacco was heard in the Health and Human Service policy committee where it passed. It has now moved to the Finance Committee. The bill does not address the possession of the product for individuals under the age of 21.
- Kids in Cars: This would make it illegal to smoke or vape in your car if you have a child under the age of 17 present in the car with you. It would not be a primary offense. The bill has passed through the first committee process.
- Internet sales bill would ban all sales of tobacco products.
- There is also a bill that would provide funds for tobacco use.
- Day at the Capitol is March 25th. Right now, seven college students will be attending. They will be meeting with Senator Eken, and Representatives Marquart and Lien.

Local:

When federal and state bills are passed into law, it is up to the local city or county to draft their own ordinance. In order to enforce the federal bans, the city needs to draft their ordinance. The current ordinance will need to be updated to the T21 federal law. Jason has been working with the Moorhead city council (has met with seven of the eight council members; the city administrator; and the mayor), the County Board (met with one County Commissioner and the County Administrator) and will start working with Dilworth city council soon. Jason has also met with school boards and school superintendents. At some point in the near future they will need to gather letters of support from schools and community groups. The first offense of the ordinance would be a option of attending an educational class or paying a \$150 fine. Essentia Health is offered some of their funds to help develop the educational class. There is evidence that group cessation classes are effective. The education class is a way to funnel the youth into the cessation class.

A public hearing for the ordinance will be scheduled in April. Jason is looking for people who would be willing to speak. The time limit for speaking would be three minutes. Jason offered his assistance in helping you develop an outline or narrative of what you want to speak about.

Next meeting: Monday, April 6th 10:00 am – 11:30 am