

## Substance Abuse Work Group Meeting

February 2, 2020

### Meeting Minutes

Jason provided an overview of the work they are doing on adopt T21 restricting flavored tobacco and furnishing to

- Rory and Jason have met with four Moorhead City Council members. Meetings with remaining council members have been scheduled.
- County Board commissioner meetings will be next
- New adopt T21 only covers purchasing only for 21 and above. It does not address furnishing it to a minor. They would like to see the cities and county make it illegal to furnish to anyone under the age of 21.
- There may be some push back on how this change would affect businesses.
- Looking at ways to put into action a non-punitive consequence for having tobacco if you are underage. May be a fine or a cessation class. Behavioral models suggest that if there is no consequence, you don't change the behavior.
- The second part of the work will be to work to remove the use of coupons on the purchase of tobacco. Most coupons are sent by social media.
- After February 6<sup>th</sup>, businesses will not be able to sell flavored vapes except mint and regular tobacco. It is a temporary restriction on a national basis. The law affects the sale of refillable canisters. If it is not a refillable canister this rule does not affect the sale of flavors. Mint is one of the most popular flavors.
- Youth are now starting to use a puff bar. It looks similar to a Julee but is not refillable.
- Part three of the implementation will be to restrict flavored tobacco sales to adult-only stores. To be considered an adult store, 95% of their profit must come from the sale of tobacco.
- Cigar use is up 7% among youth. Cigars are the cheapest method of tobacco.
- Menthol flavor makes tobacco use easier to start and harder to quit. They target youth, women, LGBTQ and African American. Cigarette use is high among poverty line individuals. 89% of African Americans that smoke use menthol. 44% of high school students who smoke, smoke menthol flavored tobacco.
- Tobacco companies are targeting the mental ill. 30 – 44% of cigarettes sold in the U. S. are to persons with a mental health disorder or substance abuse disorder. There is a 32-year life expectancy drop for those with a mental illness and a tobacco related diagnosis.
- Project SCUM targets the homeless men and LGBTQ communities.
- 77% of public schools are within a 10-minute walk of a least one outlet that sells tobacco.
- Jenny suggested that they group presentations to Boards and Councils to get the most action.

Next meeting is Monday, March 2, 2020