

**Tobacco Use Prevention & Control  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 29, 2024  
Zoom Meeting  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

<p><b>Voting Members Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Robert Nichols – Chair</li> <li>• Lorene Mein, ARNP</li> <li>• Dr. Teresa Aoki – Vice Chair</li> <li>• Bridget Saffold</li> <li>• Sellah Ambundo</li> <li>• Chad Jensen</li> <li>• Abi Harmison</li> </ul>	<p><b>Non-Voting Members Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Herman Quirmbach</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voting Members Not Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ava Miller</li> </ul>	<p><b>Non-voting Members Not Present</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative Anne Osmundson</li> <li>• Representative Adam Zabner</li> <li>• Melissa Walker, Dept of Education</li> <li>• Susie Sher, ODCP</li> <li>• Senator Julian Garrett</li> <li>• Becky Blum, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise</li> <li>• Courtney Sweet</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Staff:</b> Tabetha Gerdner, Sheri Stursma, Laura Bell, Garin Buttermore</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Jessica Ekman, Alcoholic Beverages Division; Erin Heiden, University of Northern Iowa; Kristina Hamilton, Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance; Allison Head, Pottawattamie County Public Health; Kelley Wester, Cherokee Regional Medical Center; Patti Manna, Iowa Health and Human Services; Deann Decker, Iowa Health and Human Services; Sam Jarvis, Johnson County Public Health; Threase Harms, Café Iowa CAN; Chelsea Hoyer, Advocacy Iowa; Stacy Frelund, American Heart Association</p>	

- I. Introductions & Welcome** Dr. Robert Nichols  
The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM by Dr. Robert Nichols.
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes** Dr. Robert Nichols
- A. January 5, 2024 Minutes: Bridget Saffold made a motion to approve. Dr. Teresa Aoki seconded.

### III. Old Business

A. None

### IV. New Business

A. Discussion was held among the group as to why the Commission website seems to be missing and Tabetha Gerdner explained that the new website pages are being added as staff time allows. The communications team at HHS has this particular website in the queue to build out.

### V. Legislative Report/Update

Legislators  
Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance

**Legislators:** Senator Quirnbach reported there are multiple bills that he is concerned about in particular related to the Commission. Those bills included HF2574, SF2420 and SF2385. There was discussion among the group.

**Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance (ITPA):** Kristina Hamilton stated they have been talking to legislators extensively. Hamilton is asking people to reach out and advocate for keeping the Commission. Hamilton stated that HSB725 this would define heat not burn products as tobacco products, but exempt them from tobacco tax. Hamilton stated that this is a Phillip Morris led bill that is currently eligible in the Ways and Means Committee. Hamilton stated there is a bill that would create an e-cigarette registry in Iowa. Hamilton stated that it seems to be positive, but what they aim to do is get illegal e-cigarettes off the market. Hamilton stated the issue is that any e-cigarette product that does not have an authorization from the FDA to market their products, which is a small amount product means all others are not allowed to be on the market and are considered illegal. Hamilton stated that public health organization are not in support of this bill, as it is not a good use of state resources and it is confusing. Hamilton state the bills are SF2402 and HF2677 and she will send some talking points on how to outreach to Legislators.

Threase Harms gave an update on their efforts reaching out to Legislators. Harms asked Gerdner if she knew what next years proposed budget looked like and Gerdner asked that any questions on how funding will be appropriated be directed to either Marissa Eyanson or Director Garcia. Dr. Nichols asked Gerdner to facilitate a call between Eyanson and Commission members to discuss the potential appropriations for the next fiscal year. Gerdner indicated she would be happy to facilitate and will email Eyanson to get something set up.

### VI. TUPC Program Update:

A. **Iowa Students for Tobacco Education Prevention (ISTEP)** ISTEP Youth  
Garin Buttermore updated that there are currently 74 chapters in 33 counties and 17 of them are new. Buttermore reported that registered ISTEP chapters have been reminded of the upcoming final street marketing event and activity kit for the year. Buttermore stated this event is Vape Free After Prom. Buttermore reported that chapters will host a table at their school's after prom event to talk to their peers about the harms of using tobacco, including vaping and peers will be encouraged to be tobacco and vape free and invited to join their local ISTEP chapter. Buttermore stated that as peers come to the table, they will play a Fact or Fiction card game to start the conversation.

**VII. Tobacco Program Manager Update** Tabetha Gerdner  
Gerdner reported that the Tobacco program is thriving, despite the commissions concerns with the merger. Gerdner stated that working with Behavioral and Mental Health tobacco has been able to capitalize on those partnerships. Gerdner updated commission on projects tobacco is currently working on including participating in a Cross State Leadership Academy, the updated Quitline short code 300500 for text enrollment, Vape Store point of sale survey, Community Partnership regional meetings, and the May 8<sup>th</sup> tobacco program strategic planning in-person collaborative meeting. Gerdner mentioned that tobacco program is working closely with the Comprehensive Cancer program to develop the tobacco priority in the upcoming Iowa Cancer Plan.

**VIII. Other Attendee Reports**

- A. **Attorney General's Office** Adam Humes  
Not in attendance.
- B. **Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)** Susie Sher  
Not in attendance.
- C. **Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)** Becky Blum  
Becky Blum stated she had no updates to give.
- D. **Department of Education** Melissa Walker  
Not in attendance.
- E. **Alcoholic Beverages Division (ABD)** Jessica Ekman  
Jessica Ekman reported on the two handouts that were included in the email that was sent out.

**IX. Public Comment**

Jensen stated he just wanted to let everyone know he reapplied to be on the commission, but has heard nothing back from the Governor's office. Jensen and Bridget Saffold's terms both end on April 30, 2024.

**X. Next TUPC Commission Meeting Agenda Topics** Dr. Robert Nichols

- A. Next Commission Meeting May 31, 2024.

**XI. Adjournment**

Adjourned at 11:14. Chad Jensen made a motion to adjourn and Lorene Mein seconded.