

**Tobacco Use Prevention & Control
Commission Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2024
Zoom Meeting
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

<p>Voting Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Robert Nichols – Chair • Dr. Teresa Aoki • Sellah Ambundo • Abi Harmison • Lorene Mein, ARNP - Vice Chair 	<p>Non-Voting Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susie Sher, ODCP
<p>Voting Members Not Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridget Saffold 	<p>Non-voting Members Not Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative Anne Osmundson • Courtney Sweet • Melissa Walker, Dept of Education • Senator Julian Garrett • Senator Herman Quirmbach • Representative Adam Zabner
<p>Behavioral Health Staff: Joe Campos, Tabetha Gerdner, Patti Manna, Jill Wright</p> <p>Guests: Tyler Ackerson, Carrie Arblaster, Jessica Ekman, Vicki Gassman, Lisa Green, Kristina Hamilton, Allision Head, Chris Kempker, Lynzey Kenworthy, Mattie Kompisie, Heather Krusemark, Emilie Stewart, Susan Vileta, Stephanie Wagaman</p>	

- I. Introductions & Welcome** **Dr. Robert Nichols**
The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Dr. Robert Nichols.
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes** **Dr. Robert Nichols**
The September 27, 2024, minutes were distributed to the Commission members. Dr. Nichols motioned to approve the minutes; Lorene Mein seconded. There was discussion to amend the minutes to indicate the correct vice-chair is Lorene Mein and to add a note that the special meeting in October was not held as planned. The motion carried with the suggested changes.
- III. Commission Proposal Update** **Dr. Robert Nichols**
Dr. Nichols opened a discussion on the Commission Proposal that was submitted to HHS in October 2024. As a result of the proposal, Lorene Mein has talked with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Council (HHS Council) chair, Rebecca Peterson. Lorene Mien

shared that there have been numerous requests from other boards and commissions requesting representation on the HHS Council. The HHS Council has now moved from monthly meetings to quarterly, has changed from a voting to an advisory council, and is in the process of developing ad hoc committees for recommendations. Lorene Mein has submitted names from the Tobacco Commission for a tobacco ad hoc committee. The discussion was that the tobacco ad hoc committee may report once a year or more often as needed.

Tabetha Gerdner reported that there is a plan to have this topic added to the February 18, 2025, HHS Council meeting.

There was a suggestion to develop a tobacco coalition that would meet more often than the ad hoc committee. The Commission members expressed agreement with the suggestion without specifying action steps.

IV. Adoption of Chapter 153 – Smoke Free Air Act **Dr. Robert Nichols**
Dr. Nichols facilitated a discussion on Chapter 153, Smokefree Air Act, which was reviewed in 2023 as a part of the Governor’s Executive Order 10 Red Tape Review. This executive order directed all state agencies to complete a top-down review of all existing Administrative Rules.

HHS representative, Joe Campos, explained that the goals of the review are to increase public input in the rulemaking process, eliminate unnecessary rules, adhere to rulemaking granted by legislature, reduce page count and word counts, reduce restrictive language and to avoid verbatim repetition of statutory language. No substantive changes were made to the rules in Chapter 153. One change is a change in website that must be posted on signage. Previously, signs directed consumers to an externally built and maintained website. According to Iowa Code, the signage must direct consumers to the “Department’s website”. For that reason, in addition to the overall HHS alignment that occurred, HHS has been directed to retire the old external website, and to direct consumers to the Department’s website.

Dr. Nichols motioned to approve the Adoption of Chapter 153, Smoke Free Air Act. Lorene Mein seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion carried.

V. Legislative Report/Update **Legislators**
There were no legislators present.

VI. Tobacco Use Prevention Program Update **Tabetha Gerdner**
Tabetha Gerdner gave an update from HHS which included the following:

- Tabetha Gerdner attended the Community Partnerships Conference, which was informative with speakers from all over the state sharing knowledge about their specific work in tobacco prevention and control and included a presentation by Dr. Lorene Mein.
- The tobacco team is working hard in the development of the Administrative Service Organizations (ASO) structure to ensure there are no gaps in service. ASO’s will be required to go to existing contractors first who will get the first right of refusal.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has awarded Iowa funding to administer the National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery project. This initiative brings together representatives from various fields to discuss

ways to increase tobacco cessation and opportunities for access to Nicotine Replacement Therapy among people living with behavioral health disorders. Invitations have gone out to the meeting on December 5th, 2024.

- Lung cancer screening is being implemented through Quitline Iowa, paid for by the Public Health and Health Services Block Grant in partnership with the HHS Comprehensive Cancer Program. Implementation has started and this will be fully implemented by February 2025
- Tabettha Gerdner is keeping up to date on the House Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2025, which would eliminate funding for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health, which leads the agency's tobacco prevention and cessation programs. This bill would also limit the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) authority to regulate tobacco products.

VII. Iowa Students for Tobacco Education Prevention (ISTEP)

ISTEP Youth

Emilie Stewart reported on updates for ISTEP. For FY25, there are currently 58 ISTEP chapters registered throughout 32 counties, with ten being newly established. The annual ISTEP Summit was successfully held in October. In attendance was a record-breaking 334 young Iowans, in grades 7-12, alongside 52 adults. Evaluation results will be available and shared at the next Commission meeting. Council applications were open the past month, next steps for the application process include a virtual Leadership Training followed by invitations to officially join the Council. At the annual Tobacco Community Partnership Conference, ISTEP hosted a program panel. Three council members, two chapter advisors and one community partnership represented the program.

VIII. Other Attendee Reports

A. Attorney General's Office

Lynzey Kenworthy

Lynzey Kenworthy shared that Senate File 345, which regulates and taxes the sale of devices in Iowa, goes into effect on January 1, 2025, and the department is working through the provisions. House File 2677, which regulates the distribution and sale of vapor products in Iowa by creating a directory of approved vapor products, is in effect with aspects of the bill going into effect at staggered dates.

B. Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)

Susie Sher

Not in attendance.

C. Department of Education

Melissa Walker

Not in attendance.

D. Alcoholic Beverages Division (ABD)

Jessica Ekman

Iowa Department of Revenue's (IDR) modernization program has launched with the ability for tobacco retailers to apply for retail tobacco permits within GovConnectIowa, as well as new tobacco retail licensing and law enforcement portals.

IX. Next TUPC Commission Meeting Agenda Topics

Dr. Robert Nichols

The Commission reviewed the 2025 meeting dates with the suggested dates of January 31, 2025, March 28, 2025, and May 30, 2025.

Robert Nichols motioned to approve the January and March meeting dates, noting that both his and Lorene Mein's terms will expire on 4/30/2025. Lorene Mein seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Tabettha Gerdner informed the Commission that new Zoom links would be created and distributed.

X. Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance (ITPA) Update **Kristina Hamilton**

Kristina Hamilton, American Lung Association, shared that ITPA is hosting a webinar on December 4th, 2024. The link to the webinar, Clouded Vision: State of Tobacco in Iowa, was shared.

Kristina Hamilton shared that the American Lung Association has released its annual state of lung cancer report. For Iowa, the survival rate has increased but screening rates are still low. The rate of new lung cancer cases is significantly higher than the national rate.

XI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XII. Adjournment

Robert Nichols motioned to adjourn, Teresa Aoki seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.