

**Tobacco Use Prevention & Control  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
November 30, 2021  
Lucas State Office Building and 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>• Chad A Jensen – Chair</li> <li>• Dr. Robert Nichols – Vice Chair</li> <li>• Lorene Mein, ARNP</li> <li>• Dr. Teresa Aoki</li> <li>• Abi Harmison</li> <li>• Chase Willis</li> <li>• Dr. George Belitsos</li> </ul>	<p><b>Non-Voting Members Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Herman Quirnbach</li> <li>• Donn Stanley, Attorney General’s Office</li> <li>• Dale Woolery, Off of Drug Control Policy</li> <li>• Melissa Walker</li> <li>• Courtney Sweet</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voting Members Not Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willow Johnson</li> </ul>	<p><b>Non-voting Members Not Present</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Julian Garrett</li> <li>• Representative Tom Jeneary</li> <li>• Becky Blum, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise</li> <li>• Representative Kristin Sunde</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Staff:</b> Jerilyn Oshel, Sheri Stursma, Jane Larkin, Tabetha Gerdner, Jill Wright, Adam Shanks; Garin Buttermore</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Erin Heiden, University of Northern Iowa; Jessica Ekman, Alcoholic Beverages Division; Beth Turner, American Lung Association; Michele Tilotta, Iowa Department of Public Health; Kris Bell, Iowa Legislative Services; Penny McCaslin, Cerro Gordo County Public Health; Chris Kempker, Henry County Agricultural Extension District</p>	

- I. Introductions & Welcome** Chad Jensen  
10:01 AM
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes** Chad Jensen
- A. September 24, 2021 Minutes: Dr. Robert Nichols motioned. Dr. Teresa Aoki second. Unanimous approval.

### III. Old Business

#### A. **Letter from Commission regarding funding for Tobacco Division** Chad Jensen

Chad Jensen stated that the letter from the Commission regarding the Tobacco Division funding was emailed out to members last week. He stated this letter was meant for the Legislators and the Governor to let them know that the Commission is requesting more funding for the Tobacco Division. George Belitsos asked if Jensen had received any response yet and Jensen indicated he had not. Jensen stated he is working with the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to get this letter sent out to all members of the Senate and House. Kris Bell is with Senate staff and indicated the letter has been distributed to all Senate members via email.

### IV. Legislative Report/Update

Legislators  
Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance

**Sen. Quirmbach:** Senator Herman Quirmbach reported that it has been quiet on the tobacco front as far as he knows. Quirmbach stated the big problem he sees forthcoming is the proposals coming to slash taxes.

**Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance (ITPA)** None in attendance.

### V. New Business

#### A. **Commission report to the Governor** Chad Jensen

Jensen stated the report was sent out last week. Belitsos asked if Jensen would be meeting with the Governor's staff and asked that Jensen bring up the letter regarding additional tobacco funding at that time. Jensen stated he is going to request a meeting. Jensen asked for direction as to when to request the meeting. The general consensus was to ask for the meeting prior to the first of the year. Belitsos suggested that Jensen take Jerilyn Oshel and Dr. Nichols along to the meeting as well.

### VI. Division Director's Report/Update

Jerilyn Oshel

#### A. **Budget:**

Jerilyn Oshel reported that Community Partnerships (CPs) are vouching pretty well. Oshel stated the Division is consistently having conversations on ways that CPs can best reach their communities during the ongoing pandemic.

#### B. **Alignment Update:**

Oshel reported that the link for stakeholder's meetings were sent out in the weekly update. Oshel stated that the last meeting is this afternoon. Oshel encouraged members to join and let their voices be heard. Jensen mentioned that another great way to let your voice be heard is in the comment area of the website. Beth Turner with the American Lung Association stated that they would be joining the meeting today and addressing the committee.

Belitsos asked if the Commission is planning on taking a position regarding this merger. Jensen stated that it has not been discussed. Nichols asked Oshel if she was able to speak to what the merger could mean for the Division.

Oshel stated that within the change package that it does list out Tobacco with Behavioral Health and some other grouping of what it could potentially be, but this is not a final change package and that will not come out until early 2022. Belitsos feels that the Commission should speak out about this, because of how the Commission and the Division have both been in jeopardy during past Legislative sessions. Quirnbach stated the changes being discussed will require a statutory change. Quirnbach suggested getting the word out to partnerships that they need to be alert to this and get them involved in this discussion with their local legislators.

Belitsos asked about the response to the LGBTQ community survey that was completed. Oshel stated that we are still sorting through data to figure out where that sits. Tabetha Gerdner stated that survey just ended on November 16, and will hopefully have those ending data points in January. Gerdner reported that IDPH worked closely with One Iowa and did a lot of outreach through them to engage the community in participation. Gerdner stated that there will be a full report by April and it will be shared once it is available.

## **VII. TUPC Program Update:**

- A. Iowa Students for Tobacco Education Prevention (ISTEP)** ISTEP Youth  
Courtney Sweet reported there are 68 ISTEP chapters throughout 43 counties and 10 of them are new chapters. Sweet reported that Red Ribbon Week, Tobacco Free Tailgate was a successful event held October 23-31. Sweet stated that the Ten Days of ISTEP is coming up for ISTEP's 10-year anniversary celebration; it is December 10-19. December 19, is the 10-year anniversary and ISTEP will hold a celebration on that day. Sweet reported that in January ISTEP is hosting a virtual leadership series presented by Sarah Noll-Wilson and they are working on getting youth signed up. Sweet stated that hopefully an in person summit will be done in Spring 2022.

## **VIII. Other Attendee Reports**

- A. Attorney General's Office** Donn Stanley  
Donn Stanley reported that Matt Gannon has been promoted in their office. One of Gannon's new duties is to work with the Legislature so Stanley will do his best to keep him apprised of what is going on, but also indicated that members should reach out to Gannon and keep him informed. Stanley stated that they are currently in arbitration with the big tobacco companies, who are trying to get some of their funding back.

Quirnbach asked if there is anything in the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) about requirements of how the funding need to be spent. Stanley indicated that there is nothing in the MSA about how the funding has to be spent. Quirnbach asked if Stanley could go back and find history of the promises/pledges that were made about tobacco prevention and put bullet points together that can be used when making the case for increased funding. Stanley said he would be happy to prepare something like that for the next meeting.

- B. Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)** Dale Woolery  
Dale Woolery reported that earlier this month ODCP issued the 2022 Iowa Drug Control Strategy. The report contains a mix of trend information, the positive and the negative side. Woolery reported the main focal points were in the areas of polysubstance use, increasing potency in a number of substances and the impact the pandemic has had.

Woolery asked about delayed assessments and was wondering about the status of evaluations being conducted. Oshel reported that the 2021 Iowa Youth Survey was in the field this Fall and is closed. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey is currently being administered.

**C. Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)**

Becky Blum

Not in attendance.

**D. Department of Education**

Melissa Walker

Melissa Walker reported that she is meeting with some employees from the Department of Education (DoE) and there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) for an Adolescent Let's Talk site with a page dedicated to tobacco and nicotine use that will link back to resources at IDPH. Walker reported that the goal is get this site out to school nurses and health educators. Walker reported there is no release date yet, as work is continuing to be done on the site.

**E. Alcoholic Beverages Division (ABD)**

Jessica Ekman

Jessica Ekman reported that she only included one handout, which is the FY22 budget through the month of September. Ekman stated they have expended roughly \$55,000 or 12% of their budget. Ekman stated she did not have any reports on the compliance checks or the retailer training as those are just getting started, but will have reports and updates at the next meeting.

**IX. Public Comment**

**X. Next TUPC Commission Meeting Agenda Topics**

Chad Jensen

A. Next Commission Meeting January 7, 2022

B. Donn Stanley – History of AG office re tobacco

**XI. Adjournment**

11:08 AM