

**Tobacco Use Prevention & Control
Commission Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2021
Zoom Meeting
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

<p>Voting Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chad A Jensen – Chair • Dr. Robert Nichols – Vice Chair • Lorene Mein, ARNP • Dr. Teresa Aoki • Dr. George Belitsos • Monet Rangel 	<p>Non-Voting Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Herman Quirnbach • Dale Woolery, Off of Drug Control Policy • Courtney Sweet • Matt Gannon • Representative Jennifer Konfrst
<p>Voting Members Not Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kennadie Machovec • Jane Kim 	<p>Non-voting Members Not Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Julian Garrett • Representative Sandy Salmon • Becky Blum, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise • Melissa Walker, Dept. of Education
<p>Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Staff: Jerilyn Oshel, Sheri Stursma, Jane Larkin, Tabetha Gerdner, Joann Muldoon, Jill Wright, Garin Buttermore</p> <p>Guests: Beth Turner, American Lung Association; Erin Heiden, University of Northern Iowa; Nick Gregory, Alcoholic Beverages Division; Pam Miller, Alcoholic Beverages Division; Kristina Hamilton, American Lung Association; Hannah McDowell, CAFÉ Iowa; Stacy Frelund, American Heart Association; Merry French, Substance Abuse Services for Clayton County; Kris Bell, Senate Democrats; Adam Sadewasser, Substance Abuse Services for Clayton County; Debbie Patterson, Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services; Threase Harms, CAFÉ Iowa</p>	

- I. Introductions & Welcome** Chad Jensen
10:06 AM
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes** Chad Jensen
A. December 4, 2020 Minutes: Dr. George Belitsos motioned. Robert Nichols second.
Unanimous approval.
- III. Old Business**
- A. Letter to Governor’s Office providing information on a study of teens who smoke being five times more likely to get COVID.**
Chad Jensen stated that a letter was sent.

B. Letter to the Governor's Office to send Courtney Sweet a congratulatory letter

Courtney Sweet reported that she has not received a letter. Jerilyn Oshel stated she would reach out to the Governor's office again to ask about this.

C. Meeting with the Governor's Office to discuss the Commission Report

Jensen reported that on Tuesday, January 5, he and Oshel did meet with Meaghan O'Brien, from the Governor's Office. Jensen stated that the meeting went very well and the report was well accepted.

IV. Legislative Report/Update

Legislators
Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance

Sen. Quirnbach: Senator Quirnbach reported that the Legislature convenes on Monday. Quirnbach stated the Governor will give her condition of the state speech on Tuesday evening. Quirnbach stated he does not know if the Governor is going to plan to start any tobacco related initiatives. Quirnbach reported that Iowa is in a pretty good financial state as far as the budget is concerned. Quirnbach reported that there is a carryover surplus of \$300 million. Quirnbach stated that he would like to see this session: include ecigarettes in the Smokefree Air Act, close the casino loophole and a tax increase on cigarettes, tobacco and other tobacco related products. Quirnbach reported that it has been 14 years since there has been a tax increase. Quirnbach stated the best way to reach him is to use his personal email at hcqbach@gmail.com, his home phone number 515-292-8984 or his cell phone 515-291-8984.

Rep Konfrst: Rep Konfrst stated that she echoed Senator Quirnbach's statements and they are looking at the same issues on the House side as well. Konfrst stated the best way to reach her is by email and to have specific asks in the emails.

Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance (ITPA): Threase Harms represents CAFÉ Iowa CAN. Harms reported that she provided the letters that ITPA sent out to Oshel. Harms stated that CAFÉ Iowa CAN has been busy distributing information to policy makers and the four letters were distributed to the Legislators. Harms stated they are focusing on the tobacco tax, working specifically on introducing legislation to include vapor products in the tobacco tax. Harms reported that Rep Lundgren will again be introducing the casino loophole language. Harms reported that they have had conversations with the casino communities on staying smoke free after the COVID restrictions lift. Harms stated that advocating for funding remains a top priority and they are continuing to ask for funding to be restored to \$12 million. Harms reported that they will be working on getting tobacco retailer licensing fees increased. Harms stated that these have never been increased since the inception in 1921.

Belitsos made a motion that the commission come out in support of increasing retailer licensing fees and add it to our strategic plan. Dr. Aoki seconded the motion. Unanimous Approval.

V. New Business

Chad Jensen

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chairperson nomination for 2021: Belitos nominated Chad Jensen. Unanimous Approval.

Vice-Chairperson nomination for 2021: Belitos nominated Robert Nichols. Unanimous Approval.

B. Puff Bars and IQOS Presentation

Tabetha Gerdner

Please refer to the presentation link found here

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1on9QaNlzeJNoSY3hRZzD730ZJPUztyKE/view?usp=sharing> and will be posted to Commission's website.

VI. Division Director's Report/Update

Jerilyn Oshel

A. Budget: Oshel stated that we will be starting conversations with contractors about reverting funds. Oshel stated that the Community Partnership Request for Proposal is currently posted and applications are due January 19. Oshel reported that there are two Community Health Consultant positions that are being filled and are currently in the hiring process. Oshel reported that the Department has hired a new Legislative Liaison and it is Maddie Wilcox.

VII. TUPC Program Update:

A. Iowa Students for Tobacco Education Prevention (ISTEP)

ISTEP Youth

Sweet stated that if you have a council member in your county we encourage you to share their infographic throughout local communities and reach out to them directly to congratulate them. Sweet reported that there are currently 66 chapters in 42 counties registered. Sweet reported that 6 of the 66 chapters are newly established this year. Sweet reported that next week three ISTEP council members will be presenting to Community Partnerships (CP) on ISTEP engagement tips. Sweet stated they plan to offer this training to chapters and advisors at a different date.

VIII. Other Attendee Reports

A. Attorney General's Office

Matt Gannon

Matt Gannon stated he had good news from Washington DC. Gannon stated that the Coronavirus Relief Bill that passed last week included expansion of the PACT Act to include electronic nicotine delivery devices.

B. Office of Drug Control Policy

Dale Woolery

Dale Woolery questioned the statistics on tobacco related deaths in Iowa. Woolery stated he saw a recent report from the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) that stated 6,171 in 2019 is the number in the report. It is a 44% increase from the year before. Oshel stated that the Division will look into this and give an update at the next meeting.

C. Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

Becky Blum

No report given.

D. Department of Education

Melissa Walker

No report given.

E. Alcoholic Beverages Division (ABD)

Jessica Ekman

Nick Gregory reported that the compliance rate has ticked up to 70% through November. Gregory reported that it is trending in the right way and will hopefully continue. Gregory gave an update on the compliance rate per age of Confidential Informant.

IX. Public Comment

X. Next TUPC Commission Meeting Agenda Topics

Chad Jensen

A. Next Commission Meeting March 26, 2021

B. Formalize Strategic Plan with licensing fee additions

C. Look into Dale's questions about the increase in tobacco deaths. Dale's statistics.

XI. Adjournment

Belitsos made a motion to end the meeting. Monet Rangel seconded. Unanimous approval.

11:48 AM