

**Tobacco Use Prevention & Control  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2021  
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>• Dr. George Belitsos</li> <li>• Monet Rangel</li> <li>• Jane Kim</li> </ul>	<p><b>Non-Voting Members Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Herman Quirnbach</li> <li>• Courtney Sweet</li> <li>• Matt Gannon</li> <li>• Melissa Walker, Dept. of Education</li> <li>• Becky Blum, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voting Members Not Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kennadie Machovec</li> </ul>	<p><b>Non-voting Members Not Present</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Julian Garrett</li> <li>• Representative Sandy Salmon</li> <li>• Dale Woolery, Off of Drug Control Policy</li> <li>• Representative Jennifer Konfrst</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Staff:</b> Jerilyn Oshel, Sheri Stursma, Jane Larkin, Tabetha Gerdner, Joann Muldoon, Jill Wright, Garin Buttermore; Adam Shanks; Don Owens</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Susie Sher, Office of Drug Control Policy; Erin Heiden, University of Northern Iowa; Kristina Hamilton, American Lung Association; Adam Sadewasser, Substance Abuse Services for Clayton County; Jessica Ekman, Alcoholic Beverages Division; Anais Adame, Siouxland District Health Department</p>	

- I. Introductions & Welcome** Chad Jensen  
10:01 AM
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes** Chad Jensen  
A. January 8, 2021 Minutes: Dr. George Belitsos motioned. Robert Nichols second.  
Unanimous approval.
- III. Old Business**
- A. **Formalize strategic plan with licensing fee additions**  
Chad Jensen reported that there is work being done on the strategic plan.

Jerilyn Oshel stated the Division will be sending out an update to let the Commission know what steps the Division has taken to move the strategic plan forward and it will be sent out prior to the next meeting. Oshel stated she will be reaching out to Belitsos and Jensen to set up a meeting to discuss the strategic plan.

**B. Dale's statistic-look into questions about the increase in tobacco related deaths**

Oshel stated that the reason for the difference is because of the ICD10 codes that were used. Oshel stated that a different number of them were used on the number that we use and on the number that Legislative Service Agency (LSA) uses. Oshel stated that Dale Woolery shared with her that Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) has ran into a similar discrepancy with other numbers. Oshel stated that the Division has had internal conversation to see if there is a better way to do this. Oshel did state that the 5,100 figure comes from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and wasn't sure if at this time that state figures should be different than the federal numbers. Belitsos asked which number is most accurate. Oshel stated one is not more accurate than another and what it comes down to is the methodology used. George would like this on the agenda for further discussion. Jensen stated we would discuss more at next commission meeting and asked Oshel to reach out to CDC to see where they are at about updating their website with updated information.

**IV. Legislative Report/Update**

Legislators  
Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance

**Sen. Quirnbach:** Senator Quirnbach reported that House File 98 by Rep Holt; was a bill to redefine alternative nicotine and vapor products as tobacco products. Quirnbach reported that bill did not survive the first funnel deadline. House File 733 by Rep Masher; was a bill to put an extra \$.50 on cigarette tax, but doesn't seem to be going very far. Quirnbach reported that Senate File 363 has passed Senate unanimously and is sitting in House. Quirnbach stated that the bill would regulate paraphernalia; devices involved with the usage of tobacco and tobacco related products. Quirnbach stated that it does not include vapor products, but it does include various mechanical and glass devices, would establish and age 21 requirement for purchase, impose a tax of 40% of sales price and that is on top of the regular sales and use tax.

**Iowa Tobacco Prevention Alliance (ITPA):** Kristina Hamilton with American Lung Association (ALA) reported that ITPA met with legislators to check in about budget. Hamilton reported that the given Revenue Estimating Committee projections the tobacco prevention funding should be fine. Hamilton reported that the bill that would expand smoking privileges in the Iowa Veteran's Home does not appear to be going anywhere.

**V. New Business**

Nothing to discuss.

Chad Jensen

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

Jerilyn Oshel

**A. Budget:** Oshel reported that the division will be sending out reversionary letters to our contractors.

Oshel stated that the division has a plan in place to spend down those dollars. Oshel reported that we have been working very hard with Community Partnerships (CPs) who have been spread very thin due to COVID.

Oshel introduced Adam Shank, the new Community Health Consultant with the Division. Oshel reported that Shanks started January 29, 2021, and is taking on CPs and the Smokefree Homes Initiative.

Oshel stated that the May Commission Meeting falls on the Friday before Memorial Day and wondered if a discussion should be had about changing this date.

Oshel reported the division posted a second Request for Proposal for Community Partnerships and the Notice of Intent to Award for this one is due to post on May 27. Oshel reported that there were 23 unfunded counties after the first posting of the Community Partnership RFP.

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

- A. Iowa Students for Tobacco Education Prevention (ISTEP)** ISTEP Youth  
Courtney Sweet reported that there are 70 ISTEP chapters in 44 counties. Sweet stated that 9 are newly established this school year. Sweet reported that in February had a virtual valentines' day party where youth all across the state were invited to meet the council. Sweet reported that in March they did a March Madness social media campaign that just wrapped up. Sweet reported that in April they will be doing ISTEP Takes Down Tobacco, which is some training programs they are doing and also in April there is an Earth Day event called Clean Air Clean Lungs. Sweet reported that in May they are doing an ISTEP Chooses Kindness Project. Sweet reported on several speaking opportunities they have participated in such as Team up with TUPC, ISTEP Engagement tips in times of COVID-19 and that was for the community partners and chapter advisors; national webinar; panel participation; and Day on the Hill with AC4C. Sweet reported they will be doing upcoming speaking engagements as well.

## **VIII. Other Attendee Reports**

- A. Attorney General's Office** Matt Gannon  
Matt Gannon reported that he has been attending meetings for 14 years and stated that he looked back at some statistic and in 2007 there were 3.8 billion cigarettes sold in the state of Iowa; in 2019 2.6 billion cigarettes were sold in the state of Iowa and 2020 there were 2.7 billion cigarettes sold in the state of Iowa. Gannon stated that it has been reported nationally the volume of cigarette sales went up, largely due to the pandemic. Gannon stated that he feels it is important that the Commission keep an eye on the ball of combustible cigarettes. Gannon reported He is transitioning into a new position in the Attorney General's office. Gannon stated that over the next few months his tobacco portfolio will decline as he takes on some new responsibilities. He stated a new Assistant Attorney General will be transitioned in the day to day work and eventually on the commission.
- B. Office of Drug Control Policy** Dale Woolery  
Susan Sher stated that the next take back day for old prescription drugs is April 24. Sher stated that the Office of Drug Control Policy did a survey of providers, a pandemic impact survey and they had over 300 people respond.

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

Becky Blum

Becky Blum stated everything has been related to COVID and the vaccine. Blum reported that one thing of note is that they have had not heard a lot of complaints about people not being able to get their tobacco cessation products. Lori Mein stated she has not had any problems for months.

**D. Department of Education**

Melissa Walker

Melissa Walker stated that she sent out a two series podcast on deep diving on vaping out to school nurses.

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

Jessica Ekman

Jessica Ekman reported that the compliance rate is currently sitting at 89%. Ekman stated that the compliance rate per the age of Confidential Informant (CI). Ekman reported that the highest compliance rate is when 16 year old CIs are used and the lowest compliance rate is when 20 year old CIs are used. Ekman reported that Nick Gregory will no longer be attending meetings as he has taken a promotion, but Ryan Goecke will now be attending in his place. George stated he would like to see a comparison showing the previous meetings reports.

**IX. Public Comment**

Discussion was had to move the May meeting date since it is the Friday before Memorial Day. Changed the date to Friday, June 4, 2021.

Mein stated that she had to do a COVID and Tobacco Use presentation last week and reported that research being done is showing that tobacco users who smoke may actually reduce the likelihood that they get COVID-19; to the point that they are doing studies looking to use Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRTs) to treat COVID. Mein stated it is not being done yet, but they are looking into it. Mein reported that the United States Preventative Task Force has just come out with the new guidelines for low dose CT scanning for people who smoke. It has changed to the age of 50 and smoked for 20 years.

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

Chad Jensen

- A. Next Commission Meeting June 4, 2021
- B. Consistent Statistics

**XI. Adjournment**

11:10 AM