

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Advisory Committee

DRAFT

Minutes

November 15, 2005

Oklahoma State Department of Health

1000 N.E. 10th, Room 006

Oklahoma City, OK 73117

Members Present: Michele Beck (designee for Dr. Terry Cline), Marshall Cheney, Dr. Sherri Edwards, Dr. Stephen Glenn, Sarah Houk, H.T. Scott (designee for Keith Burt), Dr. Sheila Simpson, and Dr. Janet Spradlin.

Visitors: Sandy Foster of Comanche County Memorial Hospital, Terrie Fritz of Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Wes Glinsmann of Oklahoma Alliance on Health or Tobacco, Corey Love of Tulsa Health Department, Pat Marshall of American Cancer Society, and Tracey Strader of Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust.

Tobacco Use Prevention Service Staff: Malinda Douglas, Strategic Planner; Linda Eakers, Cessation System Coordinator; Celestine McCleave, Administrative Assistant; Doug Matheny, Service Chief, Latricia Morgan, Program Consultant; Dr. Joyce Morris, Assessment and Disparities Coordinator; and Jennifer Wilson, Program Consultant.

Vice-Chair Dr. Sheila Simpson called the meeting to order. She welcomed everyone and asked for introductions of Advisory Committee members, staff and visitors.

Ms. Tracey Strader offered a slide presentation on the Oklahoma Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET). Ms. Strader is currently preparing the FY05 TSET Annual Report and will provide the Committee with copies when complete.

Several Action Team reports were offered.

Cessation - Ms. Linda Eakers reported on several issues including an update on call volume to the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline (1-800-QUIT NOW). She also discussed the regular promotion of tobacco cessation (including promotion of the Helpline) throughout the month of November on the ABC "World News Tonight" program. She reported on Legacy Foundation grant activities to develop media messages to promote Helpline utilization among African American, Native American and Hispanic populations in Tulsa County.

Protection – It was reported that Bob Miner has been very focused on multiple activities to help ensure a smooth transition for restaurants to either become smoke-free or to build separately-ventilated smoking rooms by the March 1, 2006 statutory deadline. The Board of Health will be considering administrative rules to help implement and facilitate enforcement of the statute. The Advisory Committee will be asked to review the draft rules prior to Board of Health action.

Members were encouraged to serve on one of the six Advisory Committee Teams (Prevention, Cessation, Protection, Disparities, Communication, or Evaluation) based on their interest in the respective areas.

Members then reviewed new binders that included the four components of the newly-adopted state strategic plan and the latest version of the Oklahoma State Plan.

One proposed change to the State Plan was to change the wording of the recommendation related to insurance coverage of cessation benefits. Specifically, it had been proposed to change the wording from “Require all health insurance plans to provide coverage for tobacco cessation services and products” to “Provide state employees with access to full coverage of cost-effective tobacco cessation services and products as part of health insurance plans approved by the Oklahoma State and Education Employees Group Insurance Board (OSEEGIB), thereby providing a model for encouraging similar coverage among all health insurance plans serving Oklahoma workers.” It was noted that the Cessation Team is supportive of this change.

Discussion on this issue followed. It was noted that the national trend is to seek voluntary coverage by insurance companies rather than mandating coverage. It was discussed that the current OSEEGIB state employee benefit was to provide only one 90-day regimen of nicotine replacement products per lifetime. There was a general consensus among members present that such a change in the State Plan may be appropriate. However, there was not a quorum present and no formal action was taken.

The members were then asked to consider if they would be comfortable with allowing statistical updates to the State Plan whenever new data becomes available. To date, such statistical updates have been made only on annual basis following the same statutory timeline and procedure as used for substantive changes to the actual text of the Plan. This has resulted in outdated statistical information remaining in the Plan for six months to a year after new data has been available. There was a general consensus among members present that such routine statistical updates may be appropriate. However, there was not a quorum present and no formal action was taken.

After several options were discussed, the following dates were scheduled for quarterly Advisory Committee meetings during 2006:

First Quarter – Tuesday, January 24, 2006

Second Quarter – Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Third Quarter - Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Fourth Quarter – Tuesday, November 14, 2006

Wes Glinsmann of Oklahoma Alliance on Health or Tobacco then provided a brief update of tobacco policy issues, particularly related to the ongoing public debate surrounding the tribal tobacco compacts and the impact of certain practices on tobacco tax revenue projections.

The members were then asked to provide input on “Advisory Committee Priorities and Activities for 2006.” Several ideas were discussed including 1.) more information on current prevention and cessation programs, especially community-based activities, 2.) reviewing research on the efficacy of prevention and cessation programs including findings specific to Oklahoma, 3.) promoting cessation efforts by health care providers and further involving such organizations as the American Heart Association in promoting these efforts, and 4.) seeking opportunities to promote media coverage of key issues related to achieving State Plan goals and outcomes.

No public comments were offered. The meeting was adjourned.