

Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Advisory Committee

Minutes

June 11, 2002

Oklahoma State Department of Health

1000 N.E. 10th, Room 806

Oklahoma City, OK

Members Present:

Dr. Leslie Beitsch, Richard Barnes, Sherry Bynum, Sue Ellis, Nancy Kabriel (designee for Sandy Garrett), Lacey Masterson, Sallie McLaughlin, Dr. Mike Morgan, Dr. Sheila Simpson, Dr. Gary Watson, and Koorosh Zahrai.

Members Absent: Dr. Matthew Britt, Julie Geddes (designee for Dr. Terry Cline), Dr. Frank Collins, Gary Davidson, Lynne Kennedy, Jacqueline Myles, Mike Thornbrugh, and Dr. Francene Weatherby.

Visitors: Kristin Ellis (daughter of Sue Ellis) and Dr. Ron LeVine (University of North Carolina).

OSDH Staff Present: Tracey Strader, Doug Matheny, Pam Charboneau, and Dr. Joyce Morris.

Dr. Beitsch called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and welcomed the 10 Committee members present. Since there was not a quorum at that time, all matters requiring a vote were to be tabled until a quorum was met.

Dr. Beitsch asked for introductions. He introduced Dr. Ron LeVine, visiting from the University of North Carolina. Dr. LeVine served as State Health Officer in North Carolina for 17 years.

Tracey Strader then introduced two new Advisory Committee members who had been appointed by the Governor to replace members who recently resigned. Koorosh Zahrai, a 10th grade student at Bishop McGinnis and active SWAT member, replaced Becky Childers on the Committee. Tracey noted that Koorosh had also conducted an award-winning science project, using particulate measurement air monitoring equipment to document the levels of cigarette smoke drifting from smoking areas into non-smoking areas of restaurants. The other new member, Robin Gurwitch, replaced Heather Hustzi on the Committee and represents the Oklahoma Psychological Association. Robin is a psychologist with the Child Study Center.

Tracey also announced that the Native American Tobacco of Coalition of Oklahoma (NATCO) had asked LaDonna BlueEye to be their invited guest representative to the Advisory Committee. Tracey added that NATCO had also expressed their sincere gratitude to the Advisory Committee for taking steps to properly address Native American perspectives in the State Plan.

Tracey then addressed the issue of low meeting attendance by members as discussed at the May 14 meeting. She said there were only two members that had not attended on a regular basis, Dr. Matthew Britt and Mike Thornbrugh. Tracey had attempted to contact both members. She reached Mike Thornbrugh, who indicated that it was very difficult for him to attend late afternoon meetings but that he did want to continue serving as a member of the Committee. Tracey said that she had been unsuccessful in reaching Dr. Britt but that she could contact the Oklahoma State Medical Association to inform them of Dr. Britt's lack of attendance. Sallie McLaughlin asked if there was any kind of minimum attendance requirement necessary to serve on the Committee. Tracey responded that the answer at the time was "no" but added that the Committee could consider creating a policy to institute attendance requirements. This issue was tabled until there was a quorum.

Dr. Beitsch opened a discussion regarding a possible joint meeting with the Governor's Task Force on Tobacco and Youth. It was noted that Representative Vaughn, Chair of the Task Force, had been contacted and was receptive to September 10th and/or December 10th as possible dates for a joint meeting. After further discussion, the issue was tabled until there was a quorum.

Dr. Beitsch then moved to item #5 on the agenda, "Legislative Policy Initiatives." A brief presentation and handout was offered on the outcomes of various tobacco-related bills that had been considered during the 2002 Legislative Session.

Dr. Beitsch introduced item #6, "Board of Health Rules." He noted that many persons had worked diligently to develop the rules in collaboration with the Governor's office. He added that several statutory references were considered, including the Oklahoma Smoking in Public Places Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Oklahoma Hazardous Substances Act, and the Oklahoma Occupational Safety Act. A brief presentation and handout was provided describing the provisions of the rules as they were adopted by the Board of Health on June 6. Dr. Beitsch mentioned that OSDH plans to utilize existing staff and resources to implement the rules.

Sherry Bynum arrived during this discussion.

Item #7 on the agenda was "Program Funding and Appropriations." Tracey Strader said that the tobacco program's state appropriation was maintained at level funding for the upcoming fiscal year but that it still reflected a cut taken the previous fiscal year. She stated that funding from both the CDC and American Legacy Foundation also remained constant for the coming year but that the next year would be the final year of the three-year Legacy grant. Tracey also provided a brief update on the status of several ITB's in process.

Sue Ellis offered a motion to invite the Governor's Task Force on Tobacco and Youth to attend the regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meetings on September 10th and December 10th.

Richard Barnes seconded the motion. During discussion, there was general consensus that a “joint agenda” be developed for both meetings. All eleven members present voted in favor.

Dr. Sheila Simpson made a motion to accept the May 14th meeting minutes as drafted. Dr. Mike Morgan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was a discussion about possible Administrative Procedures Act sanctions for excessive meeting absences by members. Dr. Gary Watson made a motion that if the Administrative Procedures Act provided language that would allow sanctions, actions consistent with those sanctions should be taken. Sherry Bynum seconded the motion. During discussion, Lacey Masterson asked if the offending members would be allowed to appeal such actions. Richard Barnes answered that the action would most likely be to send a recommendation to the Governor’s office suggesting that the person be replaced and that no other notification to the member would be needed as they would have already been contacted. Dr. Beitsch called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously.

A small break was taken. Dr. Beitsch left the meeting at 4:15 p.m. Dr. Mike Morgan facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

Item #8 on the agenda was “Surveillance and Evaluation.” Dr. Joyce Morris announced that the first Oklahoma “Adult Tobacco Survey” (ATS) had been successfully conducted but that the raw survey data still needed to be weighted and tabulated before being released to the public as representative of the general Oklahoma population. Unlike the Youth Tobacco Survey, which is weighted and tabulated by CDC as part of a national surveillance system, the ATS is a new program and is not yet incorporated into CDC’s national system. All states conducting the ATS must perform their own processing of the raw data.

Under “New Business and Announcements,” Tracey Strader mentioned an article, also provided as a handout to the Committee, entitled “The Effectiveness of State-Level Tobacco Control Interventions: A Review of Program Implementation and Behavioral Outcomes.” She said that the article, forwarded to her from CDC, examines the synergy between media campaigns, community programs and other components of a comprehensive tobacco control program.

There were no public comments.

Dr. Sheila Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sherry Bynum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.