Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Legislative Office Building

Room 1D

Hartford, Connecticut

**Members Present:** Anne Foley (Chair), Diane Becker, Patricia Checko, Kelly Leppard, Elizabeth Keyes, Ellen Dornelas, Michael Rell, Raul Pino, and Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin

**Members Absent:** Cheryl Resha, Lisa Hammersley, Elaine O’Keefe, Richard Baltimore, Ken Ferrucci, Larry Deutsch, Andrew Salner, and Robert Zavoski.

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| Welcome and Introductions | Chair Foley convened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Members introduced themselves. |
| 2017 State Legislative Update | Chair Foley introduced Kelly Sinko from OPM to provide an update on the 2017 Legislation impacting tobacco. The 2017 Legislative Update can be found at:  <http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/2017_thtf_board_legislative_update-1.pdf> |
| Update on the Department of Correction Trust Funded Programs | The Chair reminded members that the Board awarded $1.3 million to the Department of Correction (DOC) from 2013 – 2015 for a Smoking Cessation Education and Relapse Prevention Program for inmates under the agency’s jurisdiction. In 2016, additional funds were awarded to DOC to expand its program to clients residing in the agency’s Half Way Houses (HWH)  Dr. Kathleen Maurer and Dr. Wendy Ulasezk provided an update on the on-going activities of the DOC Smoking Cessation Programs. Dr. Maurer also shared program outcomes measures that have been achieved at various intervention phases from 2013-2016, which can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/doc_dashboard_10-25-17_trust_board_meeting.pdf>.  Additional information on DOC’s Smoking Cessation and Education Relapse Program can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/doc_smoking_cessation_summary_report_revised.pdf>  <http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/doc_smoking_cessation_hwh_data_collection.pdf> |
| Approval of December 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes | Patricia Checko moved approval of the December 15, 2016 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Elizabeth Keyes. The minutes were approved on a voice vote with one abstention by Diane Becker. |
| Update on On-going Board Funded Programs | Barbara Walsh from the Department of Public Health (DPH) provided an update on the on-going 2015 and 2016 programs that were funded by the Trust Fund. Ms. Walsh noted that all the programs are operational with the exception of one (University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy). Currently, the board is funding the following programs:   * State and Community Interventions:   + Community Mental Health Affiliates   + Connecticut Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs   + EdAdvance   + Southern CT State University   + Rescue Agency * Mass-Reach Health Communications   + Rescue Agency * Cessation Interventions   + Optum/Alere Wellbeing – CT QuitLine   + Hartford Behavioral Health   + Meriden Department of Health and Human Services   + Midwestern Connecticut Council of Alcoholism   + Uncas Health District * Program Evaluation   + The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill * Infrastructure and Administration   + Hispanic Health Council.   An Update on the Tobacco and Health Trust Funded Programs can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/update_on_trust-funded_contracts_for_october_2017_board_meeting.pdf>  DPH shared several advertisements used for the mass-reach communication campaign and agreed to develop and post advertisements to an online library.  Board members requested copies of the latest program evaluations. DPH will forward to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for distribution to members. |
| Presentation by the Hispanic Health Council | Roy Wang and Johan Marulanda from the Hispanic Health Council gave a brief update on the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board Retrospective Report.  Members made the following recommendations to be considered in the final report:   * In addition to smoking rates, include tobacco usage rates. * Highlight successes and lessons learned among programs that served special populations (i.e. behavioral health cessation programs, pregnant women versus traditional programs.     The Executive Summary for the report can be found at:  <http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/tobacco_executive_summary_revised_10-23-2017.pdf> |
| Status of Tobacco and Health Trust Funds | Chair Foley stated that the current unobligated balance in the trust fund is $ 1.2 million. Statutorily the planned deposit into the trust fund is $6 million in FY 18 and FY19. However, there is a planned vote on a state budget bill within the next few days. Chair Foley noted that it is likely that the deposits and the unobligated funds will be swept. |
| Next Steps | Chair Foley noted that the availability of trust funds for FY 18 and FY 19, and any statutory changes rescinding the meetings and reporting requirement, will determine whether the board will meet in November and December. An update will be sent to board members on the status of the trust funds and future meetings. |
| Adjournment | The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. |