

Tobacco and Health Trust Fund Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Legislative Office Building

Room 1A

Hartford, Connecticut

Members Present: Anne Foley (Chair), Diane Becker, Patricia Checko, Kelly Leppard, Ellen Dornelas, Michael Rell, Raul Pino, Cheryl Resha, Elaine O'Keefe, Andrew Salner, Robert Zavoski, and Ken Ferrucci

Members Absent: Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin, Lisa Hammersley, Richard Baltimore, Larry Deutsch, and Elizabeth Keyes.

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| Welcome and Introductions | Chair Foley convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Members introduced themselves. |
| Approval of October 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes | Patricia Checko moved approval of the October 25, 2017 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ellen Dornelas. The minutes were approved on a voice vote with three abstentions by Robert Zavoski, Ken Ferrucci, and Elaine O'Keefe. |
| Update on the Department of Correction (DOC) Trust Funded Programs | <p>Dr. Kathleen Maurer and Dr. Wendy Ulasezk provided an update on DOC's on-going Smoking Cessation Education and Relapse Prevention Program. Dr. Maurer noted that in an effort to ensure sustainability of the program, DOC continues to integrate smoking cessation activities and information into routine healthcare activities and various documents distributed to inmates and residents of their halfway houses.</p> <p>Dr. Ulasezk reported that DOC continues to collaborate with the University of Connecticut School of Social Work to analyze the needs of the halfway houses relating to the development of smoking cessations services. Informational meetings were held with halfway house staff to gather information on their specific needs. An update on DOC's program can be found at: http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/summary_of_tobacco_and_health_trust_funded_contracts.pdf</p> |
| 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 |

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| | <p>two of the cessation programs, Meriden Department of Human Services and Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism will end on December 31, 2017. Other cessation, prevention, media and evaluation programs are on-going. An update on the Tobacco and Health Trust Funded Programs can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/summary_of_tobacco_and_health_trust_funded_contracts.pdf</p> <p>Members discussed the federally mandated media campaign sponsored by the tobacco companies to inform the public on the dangers of smoking. Members agreed to divert some of the Trust Fund's current media campaign dollars to purchase additional air time to promote the federally mandated media campaign.</p> <p>Members also discussed and identified various options to increase awareness among providers and consumers on the cessation services available through the Department of Social Services (DSS). Commissioner Pino, Robert Zavoski and Ken Ferrucci offered a few options and will consult with one another moving forward.</p> |
| <p>Status of Tobacco and Health Trust Funds</p> | <p>Chair Foley reported on the provisions of Public Act 17-2 of the June Special Session relating to the Trust Fund. The Status of the Trust Fund handout can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/status_of_the_tobacco_trust_fund.pdf</p> <p>Chair Foley noted that there are no funds available for disbursement over the biennium, however, the Board is still statutorily obligated to meet at least twice a year and submit an annual report to the General Assembly. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is considering a legislative proposal to remove the statutory requirement that the Board meet. Removing the statutory requirement will allow the Board to determine when and how often to meet. The majority of the members agreed that, if there is no longer a statutory requirement for the Board to meet, the Board should continue to meet to be informed on the progress of the on-going Trust Funded Programs.</p> |

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| Review of Draft Tobacco Report | <p>Chair Foley reviewed the components of the Draft 2017 Tobacco Report to the General Assembly. Members made recommendations to add the following to the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Executive Summary• Cessation quit rates• State or National Return on Investment Data• Statement on the importance of continued funding for tobacco use efforts <p>Ken Ferrucci moved approval of the Draft 2017 Tobacco Board Report with the recommended revisions made by members. The motion was seconded by Robert Zavoski. The motion was approved on a voice vote.</p> |
| Adjournment | <p>Andy Salner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Resha.</p> |

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