

Smoking and Tobacco Related Issues Committee Report

March 2004

It has been an exciting few months in the state with Smoking and Tobacco Related issues. The following is a recap of activities:

International:

There is a new international association called the “Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence (ATTUD). I am a member of the Board of Directors for this new forming association and am the Chair for the membership committee. This association is dedicated to the tobacco dependence treatment providers. One area that the association will be focusing on is developing standards needed for certifying treatment providers. At this time, the association will not be responsible for certifying specialist, but will help to develop minimum standards recommended for the certification process. The association is now able to accept applications for membership. I am elated that our profession is being represented in this new exciting group. The website to this new association is www.attud.org

Statewide:

As the Chair of the “Tobacco Workgroup” for the State’s Cardiovascular Health Taskforce, I have recommended that there be an increase number of primary care physicians’ offices using the NLHEP guidelines and to increase the number of registered respiratory therapist in primary care physicians’ offices. If approved, these recommendations will be part of a statewide plan and will be sent to Dr. Faye Boozman. The state is going to apply for a grant to implement these along with many other recommendations from three other committee. If accepted, the lead organizations to carry the above two recommendations out will be the NLHEP, ASRC, AARC, and UAMS/AHEC-SW. This could be a great asset for our profession.

I have four scholarships available for the “Finally Free From Tobacco” cessation program. Included with the scholarship are the intensive training, the copyrighted model, consulting, and a free carbon monoxide monitor. If your facility is interested in adopting the model, please contact me at 870-779-6061.

Northwest Arkansas:

The Fayetteville no smoking in all workplaces, excluding bars, came under fire. In fact, was brought to public referendum, but was upheld by 410 votes. There were over 16,000 voters who voted in this special election. The highest in Fayetteville history for any special election. The ordinance goes into effect Thursday, March 11, 2004.

1. A new coordinator for the “Finally Free from Tobacco” AHEC-NW clinic has been hired. April Moody, CRT. We are excited to have her on board.

Southwest Arkansas

1. Karen Diles is delivered a presentation to her daughter's brownie scouts group.
2. Elizabeth Stone contacted a Texarkana Pulmonologist (Dr. Malcolm Smith) and asked him to conduct three lung cancer awareness presentations over the next year for the Texarkana Unit American Cancer Society. We are thrilled that he has agreed.
3. The BEAT coalition, along with the American Cancer Society, Texarkana Unit, was at the Central Mall for the Great American Smokeout on Thursday, November 20th. The public judged the top 100 entries of a coloring contest. The entries were from elementary children from many Texarkana, USA schools. There was also free lung screenings and carbon monoxide monitoring conducted by the coalition and the respiratory care students.
4. Teens' with the BEAT training has been conducted in three Southwest Arkansas high schools with over 30 teens being trained. During the training teens learn about the history of tobacco, the neurochemistry of addiction, the triangle of addiction, and the dangers of smoking and secondhand smoke. They also receive training on Robert's Rules of Order. Each school is forming a coalition that is under the BEAT coalition's umbrella. Each "Teens' with the BEAT" Coalition has a President, President-Elect, and Secretary, will develop a workplan, activities to be conducted in their school and community, and hold formal meetings at least monthly. There will be multiple "Teens' with the BEAT" coalitions formed in Southwest Arkansas over the next year. We are excited to see what these empowered young adults will accomplish.
5. The "Smokefree All Workplace" ordinance in Texarkana, Texas is continuing to gain momentum. The council has held a three workshops and two public forums to discuss the ordinance. The Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Arkansas sponsored Ex-Mayor Pro-Tem, Larry Medina of El Paso to present at the called workshop. The date for the forum will be set during the council's next meeting on Monday, March 22, 2004.
6. Gaylene Mooney attended the Mayoral Summit on Clean Indoor-Air held at Old Washington State Park in October. The Summit was sponsored by the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arkansas.
7. The "Finally Free From Tobacco" cessation program continues to be offered in eight sites in the State. The validated one-year cessation rate is currently at 27% average and a 34% cessation rate at the home-campus at AHEC-SW. Coordinator Elizabeth Stone can be contacted at 870-779-6075.

8. The BEAT Coalition officers took over 20 students to the Teen Summit in Little Rock. The students were treated as royalty with a chartered bus and a trip to Ryan's steak house on the way home.
9. Gaylene Mooney presented at the Inaugural Meeting of the ATTUD in Boston at the 2003 Conference of Tobacco or Health on December 13, 2003.
10. The BEAT coalition officers have been involved in multiple health fairs and presentations.

West Arkansas

1. The "Finally Free From Tobacco" cessation program continues to be offered at the Impact Center at West Memphis. Coordinator Heather Lancaster can be contacted at 870-735-5527.

Central Arkansas

1. November 20, Great American Smokeout. The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arkansas partnered with La Casa Health Network and several community health advocates for a Great American Smokeout Event. It was at the University Mall Food Court.
2. The "Finally Free From Tobacco" Cessation program is finally in Little Rock. The coordinator, Sue Porbeck, can be contacted at 501-516-7393.
3. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences campus is going smoke-free on July 4, 2004! No one, including patients will be allowed to smoke on the campus. The smoke-free campus policy will include the Area Health Education Centers around the state also.

West Arkansas

1. The "Finally Free From Tobacco" cessation clinic continues to be offered at AHEC-Fort Smith. Coordinator Elizabeth Petray can be contacted at 479-785-2431.

Respectfully submitted,
Gaylene Mooney, Chairperson
Smoking and Tobacco Related Issues Committee