Tobacco Task Force Report

Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee

July 15, 2010

The following summarizes accomplishments of the Local Action Plan for the Local Public Health Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program Grant FY 2010 after sustaining a $223,000 budget reduction. Activities in the grant’s School Component were eliminated and activities in the Community Component were severely reduced.

Community

* Tobacco Task Force meetings were held: 9/11/09, 11/6/09, 2/5/10 and 5/7/10.
* Sixty-seven print media campaigns were implemented through educational materials, displays, flyers and community newsletters with an estimated 158,305 contacts; and 59 awareness campaigns educated 2,416 Cecil County residents about Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation resources.
* Twelve “Community Volunteer Outreach Trainings” have been held, training 111 volunteers who provided 3,245 one-to-one educational contacts in their communities about free tobacco cessation services offered by the Health Department.
* The Secondhand Smoke Program, “Care for Their Air”, addresses the issue of tobacco use and secondhand smoke, especially among pregnant women and families with young children. To date, 20 secondhand smoke programs were completed educating 1,293 individuals.
* Six community organizations and churches were each awarded $500 mini-grants to conduct tobacco use prevention activities for the minority population in Cecil County: Cokesbury United Methodist Church, River Rock Apostolic Faith Church, Generation Station Youth Center, Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, Girl Scouts Troop #20 for Rudy Park, and “Haven House, Inc.", a men’s drug rehabilitation shelter.

**Cessation**

* Due to budget reductions, the Nicotine Replacement and Chantix TM Program was eliminated.
* “Tools To Be Tobacco Free” cessation programs and one-to-one consultations for Cecil County residents have reached 868 individuals.

Enforcement

* As a part of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting on September 11, 2009, a Tobacco Compliance Check Training was held. Law enforcement officers were trained on tobacco compliance check policies and report form documentation, and updated on tobacco legislation**.** Subcommittee members reviewed Community Tobacco Use Prevention Mini-grant applications and selected six mini-grants to award for FY2010. On November 6, 2009, a Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting was held to discuss tobacco vendor citations from FY 2009 that were reported to the Maryland Comptroller’s Office in September 2009. The Maryland Comptroller’s Office held Administrative Hearings for the 11 tobacco vendors. All vendors provided evidence of company policy, training and commitment for enforcing the prohibition of selling tobacco to minors, thus these cases were dismissed since they were considered a first offense.
* In FY 2010, six law enforcement agencies provided 145.5 hours of tobacco vendor education and compliance checks activities: Cecil County Sheriff’s Office, Elkton Police Department, Maryland State Police Barrack F, Department of Natural Resources Police, North East Police Department, and Rising Sun Police Department. Through their combined efforts:

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| Merchants Educated on Youth Access Law | **110** |
| Merchants Educated on Product Placement | 61 |
| Product Placement Citations | **5** |
| Product Placement Compliance Checks | **55** |
| Tobacco Merchant Sales Citations | **8** |
| Youth Access Compliance Checks | **50** |
| Youth Tobacco Possession Citations | **6** |

* + In FY 2010, due to budget cuts, the Youth Tobacco Use Diversion Program (YTUDP) was not funded but continued as an in-kind program of the Neighborhood Youth Panel. A Pre-Quit program was provided for six youth tobacco offender referred from the program.