

Tobacco Task Force Report
Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee
January 17, 2013

The Cecil County Tobacco Task Force met twice within the last six months. Task force members received technical assistance from both the Center for Tobacco Regulation, University of Maryland School of Law, and the Comptroller of Maryland regarding the following: tobacco legislation that has passed, litigation updates, an outline of county authority under Charter Home Rule Government, and how to address repeat offenders - vendors who have repeatedly sold tobacco products to minors. Task force members agreed that repeat offenders should receive consequences and that their information be given to the Comptroller's Office to be used in hearings. Health Department staff attended webinars, trainings and conferences to address the new county health priority areas of substance abuse and mental health as they relate to tobacco cessation; emerging new tobacco product trends such as e-cigarettes; and the serious problem of pregnant smokers in Cecil County. Three tobacco cessation programs were held at Windsor Village, Rudy Park, and Composites USA to support local sites that are in the process of becoming or developing a smoke-free policy. Two more sites are scheduled for programs in January and February of 2013. Seventy-four individuals were educated through "Tools to Be Tobacco Free" programs and/or one to one consultations by individual appointment, walk-in, or via phone regarding tobacco cessation. The "Nicotine Replacement Program/Chantix™ Services" saw 31 vouchers redeemed for Nicotine patches, gum and Chantix™. Six Community and six Law Enforcement Agency Mini Grants were awarded by the Cecil County Local Public Health Component Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Cigarette Restitution Fund Program in cooperation with the Cecil County Tobacco Task Force. Representatives from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control will be conducting an annual site visit in the Cecil County Health Department Division of Health Promotion on January 25, 2013.

The next Tobacco Task Force meeting is March 22, 2013 at 9:30am in the auditorium at the Cecil County Health Department.