
TFOCC NEWS

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Tobacco-Free Families Bill

As you know, tobacco control funding has been decimated by Wisconsin's budget process. While most state programs were cut five percent, the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program was slashed nearly 55%. Every dollar cut from this funding means fewer kids being "immunized" from tobacco companies' attempts to recruit new customers, smokers going without the resources they need to quit, and an even greater burden of tobacco on Wisconsin. A bill has been introduced that would restore some of this lost funding.

The Tobacco-Free Families Bill, authored by Rep. Jeff Smith, was circulating for co-sponsors in both houses of the legislature. If passed, the bill would lower the discount on tobacco tax stamps for tobacco retailers, generating some \$2.4 million for the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program.

Bill Process: Legislators could sign on to sponsor the bill July 31, 2009. The bill will then be turned into leadership in the Assembly and Senate for a bill number and committee assignment. From there, the bill will likely go to a committee in both the Senate and Assembly, and then to the Joint Finance Committee. If passed out of the committees, the same bill must be passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the Governor before it becomes law.

For a fact sheet about the proposed bill, you can go to:

<http://www.tobwis.org/uploads/media/PoliTobaccoFreeFamilies.pdf>

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Beware of Latest Tobacco Product: E-Cigarettes

Local health advocates are applauding the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for issuing a warning against a new, and dangerous product – electronic cigarettes.

After conducting an analysis of electronic cigarettes or "e-cigarettes," the FDA found the battery-operated product contains carcinogens and toxic chemicals such as diethylene glycol (an ingredient found in anti-freeze) – and are hazardous to people's health.

"These products are marketed as being harmless, but they're not," said Oneida County Tobacco Coordinator Niki Kostrova. "It's particularly distressing that e-cigarettes are easily accessible to young people through the Internet and shopping malls."

Wisconsin high school smoking rates have dropped 36% since 2000, but advocates caution that e-cigarettes could reverse the trend.

"These products may attract teens because they come in candy flavors like chocolate and mint," said Kostrova, noting that e-cigarettes have not been submitted to the FDA for evaluation or approval.

The FDA continues to examine and detain shipments of e-cigarettes at the border but is currently being challenged over its jurisdiction of e-cigarettes.

"We're concerned about the safety of these products and how they are marketed to the public," said Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. commissioner of food and drugs.

E-cigarettes are not a viable cessation tool for smokers. If you are interested in quitting, call the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW for free quitting assistance.

2009 Oneida County Compliance Rate Something to Celebrate

The rate of illegal sales of tobacco products to minors in Oneida County for the year 2009 proved that education, policy, and enforcement do work. This year 192 checks were completed and 187 businesses did the right thing and asked for identification. In 2001 the illegal sale rate of tobacco products to minors was over 38 %, this year that percentage dropped to 2.6 %.

The 2009 Oneida County compliance rate is the lowest ever since the Wisconsin Wins Program was introduced in 2001 by the Oneida County Health Department in an attempt to decrease the access of tobacco products to minors.

“We have made significant strides in reducing youth access,” said Oneida County Tobacco Coordinator Niki Kostrova. “Many businesses have now begun implementing internal checks of their own and they provide ongoing or semi-annual education training sessions for their employees.”

Kostrova believes the greatest impact may have been the enforcement of policy. “The business and/or clerk will receive a \$249.00 citation which definitely makes people more responsible when handling tobacco products,” said Kostrova. Penalties for a second offense within a year could be \$200 to \$500 with the possible suspension of license.

According to Kostrova, “The results of these compliance checks indicate what can happen when public health, community, government, and business come together.”



There's Help To Quit Smoking

If you smoke and want to quit, or know someone who does, visit the Wisconsin Quit Line at <http://www.WiQuitLine.org> or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. You'll talk to a friendly quit coach who will send you a free two-week supply of quit-tobacco medications, plus help you develop strategies on how to quit that are just right for you. The Quit Line has already helped more than 123,500 callers just like you.



Oneida County Smoke-Free Air Law Business Survey

The Tobacco-Free Oneida County Coalition is conducting a survey to all businesses in Oneida County to assist with the implementation of the upcoming Smoke-Free Air Law. The survey is designed to determine how businesses are planning to go smoke-free and how we can provide any information and assistance that may be necessary.

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO COMPLETE THE SHORT SURVEY AT WWW.TFOCC.NET

If you do not have access to the internet, please feel free to call (715) 369-6115 to have the survey mailed or faxed.

Your participation is greatly appreciated and we look forward to helping you support a Smoke-Free Wisconsin!

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Tobacco-Free Oneida County Coalition Meeting

will be held on

Monday

September 7, 2009

5:30 – 6:30 PM

at the

**Riverside Clinic – Ministry
Health Care**

1020 Kabel Avenue

Rhineland

Conference Room 1 (Fish Bowl)

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