



## Marion County Tobacco Free Partnership (TFP)

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 6, 2012

12 attendees

Meeting started: 3:30pm

### **Welcome, Brief Introductions**

**3 new participants: Lieutenant Donnie Winston, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Drug Task Force; Elizabeth Wood, Citrus County Tobacco Prevention Specialist; Clare Penegor, Nursing Faculty, Rasmussen College**

### **10/18/2012 TFP meeting minutes approved unanimously by members present**

Partnership business item: Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP) membership discussion

- Active discussion about pros and cons of the TFP buying an annual membership to CEP, in particular whether it was worth the cost. A handout was provided detailing the different levels of membership available with the corresponding benefits and costs.
- A suggestion was made that the Partnership speak with Lisa Lombardi, the person in charge of the Non-profit Organization Section of the CEP, to see if we can negotiate a discounted membership. Quit Doc Foundation Director of Policy & Advocacy said that he would follow up with Ms. Lombardi and report back to the Partnership.

### TFP News and Upcoming Events

- The Tobacco Prevention Specialist (TPS) shared that the TFP did not have any more events planned until the New Year. The first event of 2013 is the Marion County Legislative Delegation meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup>, for which Quit Doc Foundation held a training for staff and SWAT youth on how to prepare spoken comments to deliver to legislators. The TPS invited any member of the Partnership to sign up to speak about local tobacco issues and offered to help with registration and speech preparation.
- The Tobacco Prevention Specialist reported that she was invited to join the Marion County Public School District Bullying Committee, as tobacco is a known stimulant and mood disruptor that can cause and augment poor behavior outcomes in students.

## Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Update

- The Marion County SWAT Coordinator reported that recruitment activities are ongoing, and we currently have 3 school based SWAT clubs and one community based SWAT club.
- A SWAT parent present announced that there is a new principal at Belleview Middle School who may be interested in having a SWAT club at the school. The SWAT Coordinator said that she would follow up with the new administrator.
- The SWAT Coordinator reported that she conducted a tobacco educational presentation for the after school youth at Horizon Academy of Marion Oaks just prior to coming to the TFP meeting. There were about 75 youth who received this important information. She is scheduled to do a second presentation to this group next Thursday as well. The Horizon Academy staff commented that the presentation was interesting and useful for the youth who attended and they look forward to the next one.

## Preliminary Store Alert survey results, discussion

- Quit Doc Foundation Director of Policy & Advocacy shared with the group a completed Store Alert survey that he performed on a gas/convenience store located within a mile of North Marion High School. The location earned the lowest score possible, an “F”, for its level of “in your face” tobacco advertising inside and outside the establishment and for product placement inside.
- Active discussion about candy flavored tobacco ensued when the Director of Policy & Advocacy displayed some of the types of candy flavored products that he found during his research in the community, including disposable, flavored electronic cigarettes. Information regarding marijuana and flavored cigars was requested, and our new member Lieutenant Winston, who is an expert in illegal drugs, offered his expert information on the subject. Flavored cigars and cigar wrappers are used by young people to roll marijuana to mask the scent of the illegal drug and to enhance the flavor, according to the users he has spoken with. Information about K2/Spice was also requested and he gave a very thorough explanation of the effects of these drugs, how they are manufactured, and how Ocala is trying to keep them off the streets with the recent Synthetic Drug Ordinance passed by the City Commissioners. The way the ordinance works is to approach retailers selling the substances and seeing if they will tell the buyer how to use the substances for mind altering purposes. Once the retailer suggests to a consumer using these chemicals as drugs instead of incense, he can be arrested and his inventory is confiscated. In this way, local law enforcement hopes to get as much of these drugs off the street as possible. There are currently 3 cases in process for this infringement. The street manufacture of these drugs changes as new federal laws are passed banning the current chemical compositions; new versions are then crafted and legally sold. It is impossible for law

enforcement to keep up with the new compositions and they are trying to figure out a legal way to get these synthetic drugs banned for good.

- Barb Timmington of Munroe Regional Medical Center requested electronic cigarette informational handouts for her lung cancer patients, as many of them are turning to these devices as an alternative to smoking and/or to try and quit smoking tobacco. The TPS advised that e-cigarettes are not recommended for tobacco cessation attempts and offered to send her the most current documents available from the FL DOH and other reputable sources.
- The members expressed interest in learning the overall results of the initial Store Alert survey of tobacco retailers located nearest the middle and high schools in Marion County planned for the coming weeks. The results will be tallied and shared at the January TFP meeting.

#### Member News and Updates

- Being the end of the year, none of the members present had any announcements to make.

#### New Marion Tobacco Free Partnership meeting day, time and location

- Discussion was had regarding the day and time of future TFP meetings. The members present expressed interest in having all future meetings at the United Way's Bonnie Heath Community Room. The TPS will follow up with the Administrative Assistant to see if the Partnership can reserve the Community Room for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month and report back to the members.
- Tentatively, the next TFP meeting will be January 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm