**Tobacco-Free Task Force Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**
**Monday, March 4, 2013**
**SU 302**
**1:00 – 2:00 pm**

**Members Present:** Karen Campbell, Cathy Carson, Chris Cole, Maggie Gough, Alar Lipping, Ray Mirizzi, Leslie Pierce, Mary Lee Schott, Doris Shaw, Lori Southwood, Jeff Waple, Lindsey Koetting (minutes)

**Members Absent:** Peggy DeJaco, Ann James, Sara Kelley, Mark Neikirk, Erik Pederson, Sara Sidebottom, Barb Sween, Steve Weiss

**Introduction and Updates**

Jeff Waple opened the meeting by thanking the members for being present. He then introduced Cathy Carson; she is the newest member of the Advisory Council. Cathy works in University Housing and is currently a smoker.

Jeff announced that Jeanne Pettit, co-chair of the Good Neighbor subcommittee, has resigned. Jeanne felt as if she would not be able to put forth her full effort on the subcommittee due to other work related obligations. Recommendations will be made in order to fill her position.

**General Feedback**

Ray Mirizzi told the group that he has already began to get the word out to his staff to let them know that the tobacco-free campus is coming. Ray said that he wanted his folks to be prepared for the change. He also said that many of them are asking about how enforcement is going to occur, he said that he would let them know more once it is further discussed.

Leslie Pierce said that she enjoyed the presentation that Ty gave. She also stated with confidence, that she feels the subcommittee leaders have all the information they need and are ready to get started with their subcommittees.

Mary Lee Schott said the sessions on Monday were very helpful. She said she had originally gone into them with a completely different mindset than when she left. With regards to the signage she always thought for signage to be permanent, but in Ty’s presentation she learned that signage is more effective if it is temporary. She also stated that it was beneficial to know that the signage should be more educational and less challenging.

Jeff Waple told the group about how Ty Patterson had challenged him after the meeting on Monday. Ty and Jeff were talking and Ty had asked Jeff about how many signs he thought were near the outside circle near the Student Union. Jeff thought maybe about eight; Ty said no, that he counted at least 12 walking into the Student Union.
Karen had stated that she learned a different perspective through Ty. She felt he brought a new, positive energy. She stated that it is important to write a policy that is a good fit for us, here at NKU and that can be easily implemented, but it is also important to educate others about the change.

**Addressing Subcommittee Charges**

Doris Shaw asked about what the focus should be for the subcommittees. She asked if the focus is the health and wellness of a person, and aiming towards a person quitting the use of tobacco products completely. Or is the focus leaning more towards the campus environment and getting people to stop using tobacco products on campus, opposed to when a person leaves campus.

Lori Southwood made the statement that there is not only one specific goal, but multiple factors. She pointed out three specific factors. The wellness of a person is one factor, because we want people to be healthy and make healthy decisions. The cost to the university is another factor, because the cost of healthcare goes up if a person is not healthy. And lastly, the responsibility to model behavior to young adults that will carry forward in a positive way is the third factor. Everyone comes with different needs and perspectives, and just one specific focus isn’t going to work well with everyone.

Mary Lee Schott stated that a creating a mission statement might be a good idea. She said it would be good to have some sort of reference point to refer back to in order to keep the subcommittees on track with the same ultimate focus. The mission statement needs to be a positive message that we want to convey to the community and people on our campus.

Maggie Gough spoke about there being a primary and secondary focus. She thinks the primary focus needs to be the policy and the secondary focus needs to be on support and cessation. Too much focus on the health of an individual may cause them to push away, thus creating the policy to get lost. Cathy Carson said that smokers do not like when people tell them that smoking is unhealthy, they already know that, but still choose to do it anyways. The comment was made that the focus on health might work out on its own, since a person will not be able to use tobacco products on campus. Having a strong policy and communicating it to others is needed to be put first, as the ultimate focus.

Lori said that trying to change individuals outside of the institution could be dangerous. It begins to raise concern about what the next step may be. People begin to wonder what the university is going to do next. Controlling the environment here on campus will influence the tobacco use beyond here. The comment was made that we need to inform people of the policy and then have sensitivity that if an individual needs cessation support, help them find the resources they need.

Alar Lipping stated that it is important to not allow schisms to form, especially between smokers and nonsmokers. Social pressure is not a way to enforce the policy. It is important to know how the policy and enforcement is going to affect people and how they are going to react to it. The policy needs to be approached in a universality manner. He spoke about how we are targeting specific workplace people,
the tobacco users. Alar then spoke about addiction and referenced a new study that was done about the addictiveness of junk food. He related the study of addiction to junk food to the addiction of tobacco products.

Cathy Carson expressed her concern about University Housing students using tobacco products. It is believed that student housing is going to be a struggle since students live in the dorms and will have nowhere else to go to smoke. This could create a bigger problem with regards to smoking inside the dorms and stairwells, thus fires becoming a concern. The issue with international students smoking in dorm rooms is already a problem and is said to possibly become an even larger issue once the policy is being enforced.

Chris Cole stated that his concern is mostly with enforcement. Creating a policy than can be enforced is necessary. Training and educating individuals is a crucial part of the enforcement process. Some individuals pointed out that Ty Patterson had also mentioned this at his session on Monday.

A discussion began about a person potentially losing their job if they continued to disobey the policy. Lori said that this is a possibility if university policy is repeatedly broken. It is important that policies are being enforced because if a person sees one policy being broken it weakens all the other policies. Alar then pointed out the Clean Air Act that was implemented in 2006, is a policy that is not being followed or enforced. Lori stated that in the Clean Air Act policy it states that it is the supervisor’s responsibility to enforce the policy, yet they were not properly informed of this, so employees are continuing to smoke in nonsmoking areas. The policy needs to be communicated and enforced by supervisors to make the policy successful.

Collaboration occurred about the cultural change that needs to take place. Maggie spoke of her personal experiences when she asked people to not use their tobacco product in inappropriate places, like near doorways. She said during most of her occurrences people were respectful. But, occasionally there were rude people; she said she replied to their rude comments in a respectful and civil manner. Approaching people to ask them not use their tobacco products on campus is creating a cultural change. Doris believes that personal communication is needed, as far as enforcement is concerned. Messaging and communication is not going to be effective without personal communication.

Alar brought up concern about smoking in personal vehicles. Individuals of the committee stated that this concern has been brought up before, but will need to be discussed further. Alar brought to everyone’s attention a recent UK case, Mitchell vs. University of Kentucky. He spoke about the case saying the individual had a gun in his personal vehicle; people found out about it and alerted the police. The police showed up and arrested the man. He sued UK, because he said it was his constitutional right to have the gun in his car. Alar related this study to the use of tobacco products in one’s personal vehicle. A recommendation was made that we could do what Ty had pointed out. It is possible that we can have a policy that states there is no use of tobacco products in your vehicle, but let them know that enforcement is not going to occur, in this regard, unless it becomes a problem.
Logistics, Expectations and Updates Moving Forward

Doris would like to sit in on other subcommittee meetings. Others thought this would be beneficial as well.

Karen reviewed the logistics of the Advisory Council with the group. She stated that the Advisory Council is to meet every other Thursday. She said to keep communication with the group open. Watch your email for meeting minutes. Let Jeff, Karen or Steve know if you add others to your subcommittee, but this should be finalized soon.

Take informal notes in subcommittee meetings; bring notes to Advisory Council Meetings to share with the group, formal minutes will be taken then.

Lindsey is here for administrative support for you. Utilize her to schedule your rooms for your subcommittee meetings.

Karen said that we may still utilize support from Ty; we are also able to bounce ideas to him and allow for his input. There is still some grant money left over that will be able to be used. It is a possibility, if the group would like to get Ty to come back and speak to the group again.

Get with the other subcommittee co-chair in your group to discuss the best times and locations of subcommittee meetings and schedule them as soon as possible. It is important to get the meetings started. Some subcommittees are larger than others, so it is fine if not all member can be present at all meetings.

Do not hesitate to contact Jeff, Karen, or Steve. If you need any additional information, let them know. This is a learning experience and we are all learning as we enter this new journey.

Announcements:

Next meeting will be on Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 2:00 pm in SU 105.