Meeting start at 3:05pm.
Board Members: Rep. George Till, Bob Uerz, Alex Crimmin, Megan Sault, Rebecca Thompson, Rhonda Williams, Amy Tucker, Helen Wagner, Amy Brewer, Scott Connolly (phone)
Members of the public: Chris Jones, Amanda Froeschle, Naa Addo

Approval of Board Minutes
March 1, 2017
Changes recommended: Correction to the Legislative updates about last year’s Tobacco 21 Bill and addition of a last name. Helen Wagner moves to approve minutes with changes, Rep. Till seconds, seven in favor, none opposed, Rhonda, Megan, Rebecca abstain.

Public Comment

Announcements

Helen Wagner: AG office and Dept. of Liquor Control recently met to discuss working together to compile a complete list of Tobacco licensees, and discuss tobacco substitute procedures. AG office is hopeful to complete compilation this summer with help from a summer intern.

Question: Whether the state or FDA is able to track the sale or attempted purchases of e-cigs? Amy Tucker - FDA doesn’t have the mechanism within their database and this is not on their top priority list. Investigators are trying to figure out a way to collect that information. Starting May 1st, they will collect data on the final product the buyer was denied.

VTERB Evaluation Presentation – Dr. Chris Jones - UVM
Dr. Jones of UVM is the selected vendor to complete the VTERB 2017 evaluation looking at ROI and cost-savings in the Tobacco Control Program in Vermont. He gave the presentation below to the Board to introduce himself and the evaluation.
Discussion:
- Legislature is interested in the money going out of the pockets of smokers
- Rep. Till – Interested in long and short-term consequences including pre-term babies and children’s ER visits for asthma
- Bob Uerz – Hopes youth prevention and prevention work in schools has a place in this evaluation
- Rep. Till – We hear about ROI all the time in the legislature for all programs. We can’t afford to save any more money. This needs to prove why Tobacco Prevention ROI is more compelling than any other AHS cost-benefit analysis.
- Dr. Jones should meet with Rhonda and VDH as well as Rep. Till and legislators. Erin and Dr. Jones will follow-up.

Update on National Conference on Tobacco or Health – Amy Brewer
Amy updated the Board on the National Tobacco Conference. Highlights include.
- NYC presented impressive results from their comprehensive program showing that these evidence-based interventions do have big results. Their CTCP includes Tobacco 21 policy, retail policies, minimum sales price, little cigars priced at $10.50, no coupons, flavor ban. Their evaluations saw declines in youth who have ever tried tobacco products, declines in cigarette and smokeless rates. They did not collect e-cig data.
- CA also has Tobacco 21 bill. CA surveyed retailers about how it is impacting them. Also presented cessation trends and a rise in quit attempts. They found that Whites are not quitting, not seeing that in any other ethnic group.
- Rhonda- Still saw confusion/differing opinions at the conference on E-cigs and how to approach them in Tobacco Control. The science is not caught up yet. Disconnect between e-cigs and cessation. It is encouraging FDA has control over all tobacco products and nicotine delivery devices. E-cig is a pathway towards cigarettes and literature shows increased risk.

Legislative Updates
Rep. Till – Tobacco 21 is active in the senate. Last time it passed out of the Health and Welfare committee with a 5-0 vote, came to the floor, advocates thought they had the votes but at the last minute people made substantial changes. It was sent to the Finance Committee. We had one day for reconsideration. John Rogers asked for reconsideration but it was ordered to lie. Anne Pew sits on the house side and will take it up only if it comes from the senate. The Bill is currently in the moat meaning someone has to take it off the table to vote on it. Advocates don’t think it is completely dead.

Downtown tax credits votes was a 5-5 vote because someone went home sick.

Budget Updates
Budget proposal moves VTERB into the Dept. of Health making it not an independent Board. Senate is the key to the Budget and its where advocacy needs to happen. Governor said he would veto anything new. The second week of May is the end of session. The Board needs to start thinking now about worst and best case scenario and your commitment to VTERB.

VDH Tobacco Draft Budget Review - Rhonda Williams
Rhonda reviewed the VDH proposed budget. The Board will review it at the May VTERB meeting again and vote on it at the June VTERB meeting.
Changes from last year’s budget are that funding is transferring from MSA to Global Commitment. CDC reinstated the cut $36k. The staff is paid for by CDC grant. Youth shifted from prevention to under operating. 10k added for printing and photocopying booklets on how hard it is to quit and tools to make that available for quit partners for people in re-lapse prevention. Everything else is staying the same.

Community Grant Proposed Funding - Amanda Froeschle and Naa Addo
VDH presented the Tobacco Community Grants proposed list of grantees. Barbara Cimaglio reviewed and approved the process and list.

VDH representatives presented the review process to the Board, the scores and the qualitative discussion. VDH has all reviewers notes and how review committee got to the scores. Board questions and concerns about the review process.

Scott - It should be a weighted average if you have two reviewers versus three reviewers.

Rep. Till not everybody has the same reviewers, reviewers not reviewing the same number of applicants.

Helen unquantifiable conversations after they have been scored. This needs to be documented. VDH needs to document the entire process including the scoring and the qualitative review so it is clear how decisions were made. VDH has all the notes and data and will keep records of how decisions were made.

VOTE – Rebecca motioned to accept the grantees as decided by the Review Board, seconded by Alex. All those in favor: Alex, Megan, Rebecca, Scott, Amy, Rhonda. Opposed: Helen and Bob

Abstained: Rep. Till. PASSED

Other Business/Information

Media Campaign – Wendell, Angie and Faces Advertisements have had positive results. Highest response seen among 55 year old demographic. Propose to continue running these three ads. Proposed spend: $93k