

# **VERMONT TOBACCO EVALUATION AND REVIEW BOARD**

## **BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Department of Liquor Control, 13 Green Mountain Drive, Montpelier**

### **Minutes**

Members in attendance: Amy Brewer, Greg MacDonald, Barbara Cimaglio, Amy Tucker, Rebecca Thompson, Representative Bill Frank, Alexandra Potter, Bob Uerz

By phone: Sruthi Sakamuri, Matt Shear

Guests in attendance: Rhonda Williams (VDH), Rebecca Brookes (VDH) – for the media RFP section

Meeting began at 3:06 pm.

Amy Tucker introduced herself. She is the new DLC designee to the Board, replacing Bill Goggins.

#### Approval of Minutes:

Bill Frank moved to approve December 2, 2015 minutes, Rebecca seconded. All voted in favor, minutes approved.

Greg moved to approve January 6, 2016 minutes, Alexi seconded. All voted in favor, minutes approved.

Rebecca moved to approve January 13, 2016 minutes, Bob seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes approved.

Public Comment: none

#### Announcements

Amy Brewer shared that Patrick Delaney, DLC's new commissioner, introduced himself to her before the start of the meeting, and while he wanted to attend today's meeting to observe, he had a conflict.

#### Committee Updates

##### Media committee

Rhonda presented the highlights of the Tobacco Prevention Marketing, Communications, and Public Education Request for Proposals. If approved by the Board, RFP will be published on February 4, 2016 with proposals due on March 4, 2016, for an anticipated start date of August 1, 2016.

Alexi made motion to approve RFP, Bill seconded. No discussion. All voted in favor. RFP is approved.

##### Evaluation Committee:

The evaluation committee met on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Alexi shared an overview of the meeting (see committee meeting minutes for specifics). Their next meeting is February 22, 2016.

#### Updated Tobacco Control work plan 2015-2020

Rhonda provided a highlight of the scope of the statewide tobacco control work plan. It represents a collaborative multi-stakeholder effort and is intended to provide strategic direction for all agencies, organization, groups and stakeholders working to mitigate tobacco use and burden in Vermont.

Board comments: It may be favorable to change the order of the goals to highlight a priority on the goal that addresses reducing e-cigarette use. The objective around other tobacco use might be stronger if it were written to reduce the prevalence of other tobacco product use rather than just to maintain a low prevalence.

The timeline for the work plan is as follows:

A close-to-final draft is presented to VTERB on Feb 3. VDH will incorporate Board recommended updates, represented to VTERB to at March meeting. VDH will submit draft to CDC. VDH will incorporate any CDC recommendations. VDH will bring updated draft to VTERB on April 6 for adoption.

#### Current proposed Governors budget review

FY17 proposed budget essentially level funds the TCP at the revised FY16 funding amounts. VTERB budget amount cut by 50% over revised FY16 funding level.

Board comments:

Priorities are the same as last year; evaluation and a full-time administrator are necessary to conduct the activities that maintain and strengthen VTERB operations and oversight; the full-time administrator role is essential in maintaining some evaluation function lost as part of FY16 cuts. Agency board members support the Governor's budget; however independent board members do want to continue forward with message about the importance of independence and at least level funding all programs, including VTERB. Amy shared that she has agreed to sign a *Coalition for A Tobacco-Free Vermont* letter, along with all previous board chairs, expressing the importance of independent evaluation of the tobacco control program and the history of VTERB evaluation funding.

#### Current Bill Review

- [H.59](#) An act relating to banning the sale of flavored liquid nicotine
- [H.93](#) An act relating to increasing the smoking age from 18 to 21 years of age
- [H.171](#) An act relating to restrictions on the use of electronic cigarettes
- [H.233](#) An act relating to the taxation of e-cigarettes
- [S.259](#) An act relating to smoke-free rental housing
- [H.265](#) An act relating to raising the cigarette and tobacco products tax rates
- [H.293](#) An act relating to compliance testing of tobacco licensees
- [H.416](#) An act relating to smoking outside places of public access
- [H.509](#) An act relating to prohibiting smoking outside apartment buildings

VTERB actively supports raising the minimum tobacco purchase age to 21.

VTERB actively supports taxation as among the top priority.

VTERB actively supports e-cigarette regulation policy.

VTERB supports the flavor ban bill, but is lower as a priority than others, believing there are other potential bills that will have a greater impact on youth initiation and prevalence.

VTERB does not support efforts to change compliance testing of tobacco licensees believing it is resource intensive to fix a problem that addresses a relatively minor source of access.

YRBS tobacco-related high school results were discussed briefly within the context of the work plan and current bill review. The results can be found at the Vermont Department of Health at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/research/yrbs/2015/index.aspx>

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm