

VERMONT TOBACCO EVALUATION AND REVIEW BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 6, 2016 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Approved – Minutes

Members Attending: Amy Brewer, Greg MacDonald, Rhonda Williams/Barbara Cimaglio, Rebecca Thompson, Kate Larose, Representative Bill Frank, Alexandra Potter
Guests Attending: Rebecca Ryan, Alex Crimmin

Approval of Board Minutes

Rebecca made a motion to approve the June 1, 2016 minutes. Rhonda seconded.

Voting in favor: Amy, Greg, Rhonda, Rebecca, Bill, Alexandra

Abstaining: Kate Larose

Motion passed, minutes approved.

Public Comment: none

Announcements

Update on appointments: Amy welcomed Kate Larose, from (CVOEO), who has been appointed to represent the low income community. There is a delay in House Speaker appointments. With Sruthi's resignation, until House Speaker appoints new person under 30, we are down one seat. There are two new communities that have smoke-free communities: Enosburg Falls, and Winooski. Rhonda shared that CDC provided comments on the Vermont Tobacco Control State Plan related to consistency in language in addressing all tobacco products, particularly in the goal language. The state plan is on the meeting agenda for the Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Vermont to help the coalition drive discussion around framing priorities for next year.

VTERB FY2017 planning

Discussion highlights:

- Who is board accountable to (besides itself) for completing its required duties in statute?
- Keeping momentum is difficult without paid administrator, even at a part-time level.
- Independent evaluation is of key value, now more than ever, and how questions are formed to inform independent evaluation is critical. How does Board determine best way forward considering the lack of funds to evaluate?
- RTI has done significant evaluation for states without independent boards.
- An independent board is different in that it takes a top level independent look at comprehensive program to make funding recommendations.
- To maintain the balance of the TCP as set in statute, a VTERB director, housed at the board level, is valuable.
- From a policy point of view, the need for administrator is understandable, but from a practical point of view, most boards in Vermont function without paid staff. How much will the board step up to do, how much reliance on paid staffing?
- VDH is offering to provide some basic administrative support to the Board.
- The Board needs to pivot toward being more strategic around how we do our work, and how to leverage funds.
- As infrastructure diminishes, we need to rethink our committees. Recommend that committees be available to meet on an ad hoc basis. Important to maintain the independent and additional voices that committees bring to the Board. Committee chairs may opt to continue to meet more regularly.
- Desire to hire an administrator on a part-time basis or to contract with a part-time consultant; either way, Board wants a high skilled person to work on high level tasks that represent the Board.

Alexi moved that all committees be amended to meet on an ad hoc basis for the next year, with each committee's schedule to be organized by each committee's chair. Kate seconded, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Bill moved that the board appoint a hiring committee to evaluate part-time administrator applicants with authority to hire someone at less than 20 hours per week or make determination to recommend a contracted consultant to the Board. Alexi seconded. All voted in favor. Motion passed. Amy, Alexi, Greg, and Barbara offered to participate in the hiring committee.

Sustainability plan planning discussion

Discussion highlights:

- Preparing what the Board will recommend for FY18 appropriations, these themes must be considered:
 - Reducing tobacco saves lives, reduces health care costs. Vermont must continue the work to continue to reduce tobacco use.
 - The new tobacco control state plan requires adequate funding to reach its goals
 - We must have proper evaluation to be able to assess progress and impact.
 - Outline where the TCP was in terms of programmatic effort and funding levels, what happened, where it is now, and steps to build back up for future sustainability.
 - Counter myths around tobacco use and program efforts.
 - There's are alarming and growing problems to address: one quarter of our state's youth are using some form of tobacco. Among priority populations tobacco prevalence is still much higher than average. The TCP is not in every community anymore, not in every school anymore, not able to address this growing problem as in the past.
 - Experiences from other states to demonstrate how they are funded and their prevalence rates, such as Florida: excise tax goes to youth prevention and mass media.
- Process: VTERB will recommend a set schedule of three meetings September, October and after Nov 2 and invite required parties to address the sustainability plan. Amy Brewer will take the lead.
- Talking points should include:
 - Summarizing a few key data points
 - CDC recommended funding levels versus what we are spending
 - What we've learned from evaluation
 - One or two funding mechanisms that help make a state successful in sustaining tobacco control efforts
 - Solutions that fit within Vermont: e.g.; tying efforts to GMCB and health care reform for sustainability; including tobacco in essential health benefit
 - Utilize Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids materials to share research, best practice and emerging trends in tobacco control
 - Highlighting goals in the new state plan

Other Business/Information:

No August board meeting.

Next meeting September 7, 2016, Ash Conference Room, Waterbury