Participants

**Members**

Did Not Participate
- Barbara Barski-Carrow, Carrow Associates

Participated
- Deborah Brown, American Lung Association of Delaware

Participated
- Renee Quarterman MD, Delaware Breast Care

Did Not Participate
- Terri Clifton, Nanticoke Health Services

Participated
- Lt Governor Bethany Hall-Long Ph.D., RNC, University of Delaware

Did Not Participate
- Nicole Pickles, Cancer Support Community Delaware

Did Not Participate
- Dr. Karyl Rattay, Delaware Division of Public Health

Participated
- Janet Teixeira, Cancer Care Connection

Did Not Participate
- Tricia Jefferson, YMCA of Delaware

**Staff**

Participated
- Lisa Moore, Delaware Division of Public Health

Participated
- Katie Connelly, Chair, Delaware Cancer Consortium

Participated
- Helen Arthur, Delaware Division of Public Health

Participated
- Shebra Hall, Delaware Division of Public Health

**Public/Guests**

Participated
- Barbara Antlitz, Camp Rehoboth

Participated
- Andrew Jones, Public Health Management Corporation

Participated
- Dr. Sandi Hagans-Morris, First State Action Agency

Participated
- Mary Kane, Concept Systems, Inc.

Participated
- Tanny Dickerson, American Lung Association

Participated
- Mary Hawkins-Schwartz, Public Health Management Corporation

Participated
- Dr. Higgins Morris, Community Action Agency

Participated
- Jo Wardell, DE Quitline

Participated
- Dan Finkelstein, Mathematica

Participated
- Salvatore Seeley, Camp Rehoboth

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Deborah Brown, American Lung Association (ALA), began the meeting at 10:00 am. All participating members voted on motion to approve January 11, 2021 minutes as written.

Old & New Business

**New Member Recruitment**

Ms. Deborah Brown stated that herself and Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long sent out six letters to potential new members. One responded and joined the committee, Renee Quarterman, MD. Ms. Brown and Lt. Governor Hall-Long will follow up with the remaining five potential new members. They reached out to the Kids Department, Department of Education, Concerned Residence for Environmental Justice Community Partnership, Sussex County Health Promotion Coalition as well
as the American Cancer Society. She asked if any of the members have contacts especially with the groups mentioned to increase the membership.

**Policy Updates**

Ms. Brown let the committee know that the first year of the 151st legislative session ended on June 30th and the budget was passed. It appears to be level funding for the Delaware Cancer Consortium and Tobacco Prevention and Control funding. Two tobacco bills that the Impact Coalition membership watched closely included Senate Bill 131, which was a Premium Cigar Bill. Senator Sturgeon introduced Senate Bill 131, which would lower the tax on premium cigars from 30% of wholesale to 15% so it was going the opposite way of which the committee wanted to happen. There was an amendment added to that Bill that would add a specific definition of premium cigars to the code. The sponsors main argument was premium cigars are a luxury item that are used by adults and they are not used on a regular basis. Senator Sturgeon also indicated that surrounding states like Pennsylvania and Maryland had lower tax rates on premium cigars, therefore Delaware residents would be traveling across state lines to buy these products, which was a concern for retailers in the state of Delaware and particular Senator Sturgeon’s district. On May 19th, the Bill was heard in the Senate Executive Committee where it cleared. Even though there were many health organizations, Department of Finance and Division of Public Health that expressed concerns, the Bill cleared the full Senate on June 15th. It was a 15 to 6 vote the Bill was then referred back to the House Revenue and Finance Committee. Ms. Brown stated that they really pushed to make sure that the Bill is not considered during the remainder of the session, therefore no hearing was scheduled. The most important thing for the committee to know is that the Bill will remain in committee and will carry into 2022. It is a two-year session and will most likely need to mobilize the committee as well as other advocates if the Bill starts to gain traction. The committee wants to make sure that they continue with the 30% excise tax of wholesale. The second Bill was a Flavors bill. The IMPACT Coalition decided that the 2021 was not the right time to introduce the Bill into legislation and that they will focus on building grassroots in the community. Representative Melissa Minor-Brown is committed to being the primary sponsor in the House. However, there were many senate sponsors who said they supported the initiative. Many of them had different priorities for 2021. Ms. Brown stated that the committee will be looking to have discussions over the summer with many of them for 2022 and will continue to host some virtual public education sessions. There is a lunchtime speaker, Dr. Phil Gardener who is from the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council. He presented to the Legislative Black Caucus in February and April. He also presented to the African American Task Force Subcommittee on Health in May. The Wilmington City Council passed a resolution that was sponsored by Council Member Dixon to encourage the legislature to take action on flavored tobacco products. ALA has been doing work with community groups on external retail store assessments to see what type of advertisements and displays there are for flavored products including menthol. They are in the process of compiling the assessments. They will then have youth members write a narrative about their experience that can be used with legislators to describe the appeal and marketing of flavored tobacco products to them with hope that will help convince legislatures to move on this section. On a national note, Ms. Brown wanted to make sure the committee is aware that on April 29th, the administration made a historic announcement regarding two areas of tobacco control that work hand in hand with the legislation at the state level. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will propose to eliminate menthol as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes. FDA will also propose to eliminate all characterizing flavors including menthol in mass produced cigars and cigarillos. It shows why Delaware really has to stay the course because it takes a lot longer on the federal level.
Lt. Governor's Challenge Update

Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long discussed the purpose of the Challenge. It is a way to integrate both physical health and emotional wellbeing as both factors address cancer, risk reduction and lifestyle head on.

Ms. Shebra Hall, Physical Activity Nutrition Obesity (PANO), stated that DPH continues to partner with the Office of Lieutenant Governor to support the challenge. It officially launched back in March 2021 and the nominations opened on April 1, 2021 and have been receiving a ton of nominations. The nominations were scheduled to close on May 28, 2021, but the deadline was extended to June 11, 2021. Approximately 50 nominations were received. There were several applicants from previous years meaning that there are really strong candidates. There is a systematic process in place to review all the nominations making sure they are checking all the boxes and that they are really well-rounded representatives of the Lieutenant Governor’s Challenge. The announcing of the winners will be the first week of September and there will be a virtual reward ceremony on September 10, 2021.

PANO/Healthy Lifestyles Subcommittee Update

Ms. Shebra Hall, PANO, stated that it was challenging to continue focusing on physical education, however, the Department of Education (DOE) committed to keeping the physical fitness assessment as a requirement as written in the regulations. DOE adjusted the assessment tool, so a lot of the physical education skill sets were recorded either by the students themselves or during a hybrid model. This was successful, as we increased the number of schools that are completing the physical fitness assessments.

Ms. Hall reported that they continue to work with the Department of Education and with our health education program administrator to facilitate improved responses to schools for our school surveys, such as the YRBS (Youth Risk Behavior Survey). Helen Arthur and leadership from the Department of Education just completed a joint letter to Delaware schools to encourage participation in the upcoming YRBS survey if selected.

Ms. Helen Arthur, Health Promotion Disease Prevention (HPDP) mentioned that they are working with a covid team on a broader campaign to really encourage participation in the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS) at a much broader level. The survey did not do well in 2019. Kent County was the only data that was received, which is not enough. Ms. Arthur stated that there really has to be a push to educate and promote participation in this extremely important survey. This is the one survey that we have to look at the health behaviors in the state for youth and how they have been impacted by Covid-19 as well as all of the other behavioral health areas that are collected in that survey. They are finding that the schools with all of the challenges had not been prioritizing it and it would be great if we can convince the school districts to participate.

Ms. Hall mention that PANO is enhancing the Healthy Delaware campaign, which is the social marketing campaigns to promote healthier living and making better choices in order to reduce the risk of chronic diseases. The campaign is currently paused to make sure they are up to date with the current COVID-19 guidelines and it aligns with up to date priorities. The campaign will be ready to go very soon and Ms. Hall will keep the committee updated on the new enhanced campaign.

Ms. Hall reported that PANO is supporting the phase two of the Healthy Lifestyle Subcommittee policy recommendations work through the initiative Advancing Healthy Lifestyles, Chronic Disease Health Equity and Covid-19. Ms. Hall then introduced vendors Dan Finkelstein (Mathematica) and
Mary Kane (Concept Systems Inc.) to give a status update presentation on Advancing Health Lifestyles.

Some of the highlights of work that has been done includes:

- Surveys asking for recommendations regarding the 14 policy recommendations that were established.
- Three World Cafes were conducted, and intense conversations took place about the subcommittee recommendations and how they support the action plan.
- The first AHL Learning Series were held, usually at lunchtime, as a platform for learning about topics related to Healthy Lifestyles.
- Webinars with schools and several meetings with Department of Education have been held. Because schools are facing a variety of challenges as they prepare to go back to in-person learning, we revised the plan of action to create healthy school action teams at the county level and include youth organizations such as Boys & Girls Club, after school organizations and YMCA.
- In the community capacity area, we are working with American Lung Association, University of Delaware, and Delaware State University to develop action plans to use the theory of change model to come up with activities they would like to see implemented.
- In the Workplace Wellness area, we have been working with State Benefits Office (SBO) to develop a statewide policy that is acceptable to all state executive branches. This will lead to an online toolkit where information on best practices and evidence-based practices could be.

The presentation is attached.

**Mini Grant Program (Tobacco/PANO) Presentation – American Lung**

Ms. Brown shared an update on Mini Grant Program that ALA has been doing through a contract with Division of Public Health with the Tobacco Prevention & Control Program (TPCP) and PANO program. The program is mostly funded through the Delaware Health Fund. The program is a competitive process for communities to address tobacco prevention programs, physical activity, nutrition promotion and obesity prevention programs. They also look at implementing policies systems environmental changes related to TPCP and PANO. Tanny Dickerson, ALA manages the mini grant program and will be making the presentation to explain the program efforts along with a few of the mini grantees (representatives from Camp Rehoboth and First State Action Agency) and program evaluators (Public Health Management Consultants). The presentation is attached.

**Sharing Time**

Lisa Moore, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program shared that between now and the next meeting in October, a draft will be developed for the Committee to review updated goals and objectives for the next five-year plan.

**Adjournment**

The meeting officially adjourned at 11:30 p.m.
Attachments

Meeting documentation is available on the DCC website (www.healthydelaware.org) or by contacting Ms. Goodman (Elaine.Goodman@delaware.gov or 302-744-1010).

Future Meeting(s)

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