

Meeting Report

Tobacco-Free Partnership of Martin County

August 26, 2008, 7:45 – 9:00 AM

Location: Stuart / Martin County Chamber of Commerce
1650 South Kanner Highway
Stuart, Florida 34994-7199

Attendees:

- Barry Hummel, Jr., MD, Program Administrator, QDREF, Martin County
- Jennifer Harris, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, Region 4, FL DOH
- Suzanne Williams, Alcohol Drug & Tobacco Prevention, Palm Beach County FL School District County Chamber of Commerce
- Jessica Polzin, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers
- Dr. Bruce Hansbrough, Harmony Healing Arts Center, Stuart FL

Agenda:

This meeting was scheduled as an introductory meeting of the Tobacco-Free Partnership of Martin County. A meeting agenda has been attached.

Meeting:

The attendees spent 15 minutes introducing themselves and having an informal discussion regarding the goals of a Tobacco-Free Partnership in Martin County.

Following the introductions, Dr. Barry Hummel gave a 40 minute presentation entitled "Secondhand Smoke, Who is at Risk in Martin County?" (see attached handout for program details).

The presentation was followed by 20 minutes of questions, and a more through discussion o the goals of the Tobacco-Free Partnership.

Dr. Hummel discussed the fact that Martin County Schools already have existing smoke-free policies for adults as well as students. He also pointed out that the major hospitals in Martin County have also recently adopted smoke-free policies.

Dr. Hummel expressed his view that the Tobacco-Free Partnership in Martin County should recruit local businesses to adopt work on small, voluntary smoking

restrictions; he felt that tobacco-free legislation would require broader support, and that recruiting businesses to adopt voluntary tobacco-free policies would help build a coalition that could work on such legislation in the future.

Dr. Hummel also stressed the need for an educational/media campaign to reach families with information on the harmful effects of secondhand smoke. Dr. Hummel pointed out that approximately 70% of youth secondhand smoke exposure in Martin County occurs in the homes and cars of friends and relatives. While restrictions on public smoking sends the message that tobacco use is no longer socially acceptable, it will be necessary to educate people who smoke around children in private settings in order to reduce that 70% exposure rate in Martin County.

Summary:

This introductory meeting was a productive start for the newly formed Tobacco-Free Partnership in Martin County. All of the attendees agreed to attend future meetings, which Dr. Hummel felt should be held on a quarterly basis.

Current action plans include:

- Dr. Hummel will arrange a follow-up meeting in 8-16 weeks.
- Dr. Hummel will develop a needs assessment for Martin County businesses to obtain information on
 - the understanding and compliance of the current Florida Clean Indoor Air Act
 - the understanding of the harmful effects of secondhand smoke
 - the willingness of business leaders to expand voluntary smoking restrictions on business properties
 - the willingness of business leaders to promote the “Don’t Smoke Around Kids” campaign
 - the willingness of business leaders to participate in the Tobacco Free Partnership of Martin County