**Tobacco Coalition Quarterly Meeting**

April 17, 2025, at 3pm (virtual)

**In attendance:**

* Ellie Folk- ACHD Cancer Program/ Infectious Disease
* Blair Innis- Maryland Legal Resource Center
* Jill Evans- UPMC Pulmonary Clinic
* Corey Edmunds- Mt Laurel Medical Center
* John Keller- ACHD Addictions, Peer Recovery Specialist
* Renee Kniseley- Local Management Board
* Hailey Guillot- CHOW Chronic Disease
* Natalie Bolden, ACHD Dental Program

**Absent:**

Brittany Milbourne-Friend- UPMC Western Maryland Community Wellness Coordinator

Carole Mooreland- Cumberland Housing Authority

Christina Burke- Frostburg State University Brady Center

Daniel Snyder- Judy Center

Kerri Caporale- The Caporale Group

Robyn Miltenberger- Project YES Coordinator, Mt Ridge High School

Jonathan Dayton- Md Rural Health Administration (Executive Director)

Tyler Bittinger- Sheriff's Department

Sarah Bush- CareFirst Community Health

Janice Cannon- YMCA Family Center

Christina Glenn- ACHD WIC

Lawrence Carter- MDH Chief of Health Promotion, Education and Tobacco Prevention

Carolyn Campbell- School Health Nurse

Jennifer Ensor- Cumberland Housing Authority

Panagis Galiatsatos- JHH Critical Care Pulmonologist

Heather Deurr- ACHD Healthy Families Allegany

Melissa Geatz- ACHD School Nurse Assistant Director

Tricia Evix- ACHD WIC Program Director

Theresa Stahl- ACHD Dietician

Sara Ahmed- MDH Coordinator of Special Programs

Tracey Leonard- ACPS Supervisor of Health, Physical Education and Athletics

Lisa Moran- Priority Partners MCO

Jordan Lewis- ACHD Director of Prevention and Promotion Programs

Tennille Haines- Member of the Metropolitan AME Church in Cumberland, MD

Karlee Logsdon- Tri-State Women's HealthCenter

Jordan Rhoads- Prevention, ACHD Behavioral Health

Pamela Devore- ACHD School Nurse Director

Paula Fuller- Allegany College of Maryland Director of the Respiratory Program

Kaitlyn Morral- Frostburg State University Brady Center

1. **Opening:** Members were welcomed and asked to sign-in in the chat box. The meeting started at 3pm.

2. **Review of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 2025 meeting were approved without corrections or additions. The coalition agenda and minutes will now be posted to Allegany Speaks website under the tobacco program action groups tab.

3. **Presentation by:** Renee Kniseley, Executive Director of the Local Management Board and Tobacco grant partner. She spoke extensively on all the great work the LMB is doing in Allegany County. For more information, please visit their website: https://alleganylmb.org/

*“The Local Management Board of Allegany County, Inc. (LMB), a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, was established in 1996 in an effort to change the way services were provided to children and families in Allegany County.  The creation of the LMB provided the opportunity to bring together local child-serving agencies, child providers, service clients, families, and community representatives to identify/address local needs and to prioritize/target resources based on those efforts.  These efforts continue in Allegany County and in every jurisdiction across the State.*

*The LMB is governed by a Board of Directors, including representatives from the county’s eight largest human service organizations working with children and families.   Agencies touch the lives of many children/families in the county through the child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and addiction systems as well as education, workforce development, physical health, and mainstream supports to include housing, food, and energy assistance.*

*The Local Management Board members are committed to making Allegany County a healthier, thriving place for children and their families to live and prosper.  In order for the community to thrive, families must be stable, and children must have the opportunity to grow and develop in nurturing environments.”*

4. Tobacco Program Updates

### a. Grants:

### On March 12,2025 three members from MHD came to Allegany County for tobacco program a site visit. Also in attendance were three representatives from tobacco grant partners (ReneeKniseley, LMB, Paula Fuller, Allegany College of Maryland Respiratory Program and Tyler Bittinger, Sheriff’s Office.) MDH had several recommendations at the meeting i.e. Including more youth and youth input into the coalition meeting and obtaining Appointee Exemption Forms from Coalition members. No official report has been received yet from MDH.

* Enforcement- All tobacco spring education “21 or none” has been completed and the Sheriff’s Office has started the tobacco vendor compliance checks. We have had a total of 3 failures so far.
* CRF- Dr Galiatsatos, a pulmonologist from John Hopkins Hospital, will be speaking again next week at all 4 middle schools about the dangers of vaping.
* PATCH- All grant funds have been approved and distributed to partners

b. Partners

* **Haley Guillot- Tobacco/Chronic Disease:**

Haley informed members that there will be a new TOPS chapter starting up soon and she is still looking for someone interested in opening a chapter in the Westernport/Lonaconing area. She also announced that the “Live Tobacco Free” billboard contest with the county schools has come to a close and the contest winners will have their poster on display soon.

5. **New Tobacco Updates:**

* Maryland Legal Resource Center (LRC)- Reported by Blair Inniss

Blair stated that the Maryland legal session ended on April 7,2025. She reported that 1 tobacco bill passed, SB-842, which involves the Alcohol Tobacco Cannabis Commission (ATCC) and the way they seize tobacco products that vendors have illegally in their store. The bill would now include electronic smoking devices (ESD). The bill did not, however, include how the ATCC will discard seized products. She also wanted to share the LRC and MDHLocal Tobacco Grantee Meeting held on May 1 that was originally to be in person may be changed to virtual per the request of MDH. On June 4, the 9th Annual Maryland Tobacco Control Conference will be held at UMBC.

* Tobacco Coalition/Cancer Coalition Merger- Jennifer made the announcement that since her supervisor, Ellie Folk, who also oversees the cancer program, work together so closely, they thought it would be more effective in serving the community if the two coalitions merged.

Ellie added:

Purpose of cancer coalition:  
The coalition's strategy during bi-monthly meetings is to assess the community's cancer incidence rate and develop targeted approaches to reduce the rate of cancer/mortality. As well as reducing social determinants of health and tailoring programs to meet the specific needs of diverse community members, including minorities. We will share information on the ACHD Cancer Screening Program, education on cancer/cancer screenings, ACHD Tobacco Cessation Program, and Maryland Quitline to members of the community and community partners. We will also discuss outreach opportunities within the community to educate community members and attempt to enroll new clients in the cancer screening program (CPEST and BCCP).  
  
Hoping to increase group participation and relevant discussion by joining the cancer and tobacco coalition together.

Members of the tobacco coalition were asked if anyone had any objections to the merger. None were stated during the meeting.

Jennifer stated more to come on this prior the July meeting.

6. **Roundtable/Questions/Suggestions:**

* **Recruitment for new members:** We are still looking to recruit new student members to make suggestions and help advocate for local youth for the upcoming school year

7. **Closing:** Meeting was adjourned at 3:27pm

Next meeting is Thursday July 17, 2025, at 3pm

*Minutes Submitted by Jennifer Smith, RN*