

TFW Coalition Meeting Summary
Friday, March 12, 2021
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Mission: To protect residents of Wichita/Sedgwick County from the adverse effects of tobacco.

Attending: **Kim, Shelley, Frederique, Diane, Patty, Hayley, Ruth, Kari, Christy, Lisa, Elena**

1. Opening Announcements:

- a. Tobacco Tax Bill HB2428 - Tobacco Free Kansas is pushing this bill through the tax committee to increase taxes on cigarettes by \$1.50 per pack. Kansas is #34 in the nation for cigarette taxes (the bottom third). The last increase was in 1972, and this is the primary way to prevent youth tobacco initiation, reduce the overall tobacco rate, and save on healthcare costs. The revenue from the tobacco tax increase will fund a 1.5% reduction in food sales tax. 66% of Kansas supports a tax increase and Governor Kelly is now supportive. Tobacco Free Wichita will be gearing up to help advocate. It was unanimously agreed from attendees to support tobacco and there are no concerns with food sales tax.
- b. Celebrations! KCCTO Training approved - Registration [link](#) for April 7th training. Please share this approved training for 2 clock hours with those who have a child care license.
- c. New resource: Racial Equity in Public Policy Message Guide: How Do You Talk about Equitable Policies from the American Heart Association Voices for Healthy Kids. Click [here](#) to view.
- d. Announcing new Coalition Leadership Team structure:
 - i. TFW Chair: Ruth Johnson
 - ii. Co-Chair/Policy: Frederique Huneycutt
 - iii. RESIST Coord/Vaping: Elena DeVora
 - iv. Members: Jennifer Strong-McConachie, Christi Wells, Lisa Blume

2. A presentation on the dangers of thirdhand smoke was given by Shelley. Highlights include:

- a. Second hand smoke is the smoke emitted from the burning of a tobacco product and the smoke exhaled by the smoker. Hundreds of the chemicals in SHS are toxic and at least 69 cause cancer.
- b. There is NO safe level of secondhand smoke! Research shows that even in homes where smokers go outside, environmental tobacco smoke contamination inside the home can still be 5-7 times higher than in nonsmoking households.
- c. Thirdhand smoke is toxins that remain on surfaces where somebody has smoked nearby after the cigarette has been put out. It can be found in almost all indoor areas where tobacco has been smoked, such as on clothing, carpet, furniture, toys, and in car interiors.
- d. FAQ #1: *How long does thirdhand smoke persist in a home, or a vehicle, or a workplace?* Thirdhand smoke builds up over time in carpets, walls, furniture,

toys, pillows, etc. creating reservoirs where thirdhand smoke can be stored for years. Exactly how long thirdhand smoke persists depends on how much and over what period of time tobacco smoke was able to build up. In one case, the owner of a large house was a heavy smoker and when she passed away, the house was left unoccupied and was sold a year later. When thirdhand smoke residue was measured on walls, furniture, and in dust, the levels were comparable to what we find in homes of current active smokers.

- e. FAQ #2: *Is there any way to remove it once it's been found to be present?*
Because thirdhand smoke becomes embedded in carpets, furniture, and walls, it is very difficult to remove it once it has built up. If a thirdhand smoke reservoir is superficial, washing, wiping, vacuuming, and airing out a room or car might be enough. When a reservoir is deep, wiping and washing may provide temporary relief, but thirdhand smoke chemical will soon come back out from their reservoirs. In that case, carpets, furniture, cabinet, and even wallboards may have to be replaced to get rid of thirdhand smoke. This problem is well understood in the real estate and hospitality industries, among used car dealers, and in the cleaning and remediation business. Cleaning up a heavily polluted home or car can be a very expensive proposition.
- f. FAQ #3: *What about electronic cigarettes and vaping? Do they produce thirdhand smoke?* Yes, electronic cigarettes and vaping leave behind residue from their emissions and therefore produce thirdhand smoke. However, because the emission from regular cigarettes and electronic cigarettes differ, the composition of thirdhand smoke from regular cigarettes and electronic cigarettes will also differ. Both forms of thirdhand smoke residue include nicotine and other tobacco specific compounds. Overall, the concentration and rate of thirdhand smoke build up from electronic cigarettes is significantly lower than that from conventional cigarettes. While this suggests a less polluted indoor environment and a lower health risk compared to conventional cigarettes, the negative impacts of electronic cigarettes are far from trivial and are not yet well understood.
- g. Final thoughts: Because it is difficult and expensive to clean up thirdhand smoke, the focus has to be on prevention. Whenever possible, stay in a location with a comprehensive and well-implemented 100% smoking ban. Whenever you rent a new apartment, buy a home, make reservations for a hotel room or rental car, or buy a used car, make sure to ask about their smoking policies. Read the smoking policies and confirm that it includes e-cigarette. Look for evidence of tobacco use such as litter, burn-marks, odor. See if there is clearly visible signage reminding users, owners, and guests that this is a 100% smoke-free environment.

3. CDRR SFY 2022 Work Plan submissions:

- a. Tobacco Free Parks & Trails - #1 Coalition priority, expanding to surrounding communities.

- b. Healthcare + Behavioral Health Providers - these two are connected, but separate work plans. Kim is working with Health Care Providers on tobacco cessation procedures. Hunter Health is interested in re-working their approach. For Behavioral Health, Kelsey oversees Integrated Health at Hunter Health, and is excited to partner and sign on with state guidelines. Also continuing to offer Quit Kits. Will work with Hunter Health on commercial vs. ceremonial tobacco use.
 - c. Childcare - 2nd year in this work plan encouraging 100% smoke free environments including a Clean Air Child Care Recognition Program.
 - d. Food Council - New work plan in SFY 2022 thanks to years of work by the Health & Wellness Coalition and the Food System Master Plan. This will bring together City and County officials to support a health related item.
4. Ongoing TFW Initiatives
- a. Tobacco Free Transit - the new transit center will open the summer of 2023, Director Mike Tann is also interested in tobacco free bus stops and the main downtown transit center.
 - b. Content Neutral signage (Derby, Cheney) - retailer signage around convenience stores. Reduce ALL signage - cigarettes/ hot dogs/soda.
 - c. Multi-unit smoke-free housing - TFW continues to promote this initiative.
5. Community & Partner Updates/Events
- a. Reno County work plans include behavioral health, smoke free schools, walk with ease (new class starting in April), Food Policy, and promoting KanQuit.
 - b. Kim reported about KDHE Quitline data - behavioral health participation is up significantly. This program offers free NRT products.
 - c. Girls on the Run - in person race this spring, big announcement regarding a new partner coming in a couple of weeks. Love the work that these organizations are doing, but no vendors at the spring race. To submit race packet information - contact [Christy](#). The program talks about peer pressure, knowing how to say no, and standing up for what they believe in. Trans girls are allowed in the program. Suggestion to connect GOTR with RESIST. Shelley will share My Life My Quit program information.
6. Next meeting May 21st - 10 days before World Tobacco Day - We planted the seed for doing something as a Coalition at this meeting to have content to distribute on May 31st, World Tobacco Day.