



# Advisory Council

## March 17, 2015

**Council:** Joan Caley, Paul Childers, Greg Noelck, Betsy Brownfield, Bob Richardson, Alden Roberts, Rhonda Turner, Remy Eussen, Trevor Evers, Mark Collier, Stephanie Roise-Yamishita, Karen Evans, Bryce Hackett

**Staff:** Alan Melnick, Janis Koch, Jeff Harbison, Julie Grimm, Roxanne Wolfe, Don Strick, and Adiba Ali

**Guests:** Shelby Culver, Gina Chan, Katrina Winniger, Misty Van Cleave, Andreea Nedelcu, and Ann Watterson

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(1) **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES** (*Trevor*)

Trevor opened the meeting and guests self-introduced. Council reviewed the February 17, 2015 meeting notes. Joan moved and Remy seconded motion to accept the notes as submitted. Motion passed.

(2) **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** (*Trevor*)

**Bryce Hackett, Testimony on legislation:**

- On behalf of the PHAC, Bryce urged the Board of Health to support legislation on e-cigarettes. The Board expressed they would fully support the legislation.
- He traveled to Olympia on March 16 and, alongside school employees from around the state, testified on legislation that would restrict youth access to e-cigarettes.

(3) **DEPARTMENT UPDATE** (*Alan*)

- **BOH Support for Youth Substance Prevention (E-cigarettes and Vapor Drug Delivery Devices: HB 1645/SB 5573):** PHAC wrote a letter in support of these companion bills around vaping devices. Bryce did a great job testifying at the Board of Health meeting, and the lobbyist for the county went on record in support of the legislation. The legislation is moving forward in both the House and Senate. There are a number of things these bills would prohibit. However, the legislation will not regulate the vaping devices the way the SIPP law does.
- **BOH Response on HB 2009 (Elimination of philosophical exemptions for Immunization):** The PHAC also expressed support for this legislation which would eliminate the philosophical exemption for vaccination – an exemption that accounts for the vast majority of vaccination exemptions. The letter was prepared and brought to the BOH. The BOH was concerned about the rights of parents, and they wanted to see how it plays out in the legislature. The bill was deliberated in the legislature and the bill died. In the future, we may need to reframe the argument.
- **NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) Promising Practice: *Partnering with Faith Communities to Tackle Inequality*:** Every year NACCHO provides a venue for offering public health departments to propose promising/model practices. A model practice is one that has generally been around longer than a promising practice, which in turn, has more supporting data. Anne Johnston submitted the application to NACCHO the promising practice of bringing together faith and school

communities to tie the need together with the resource. *(The Council would like to ask Anne Johnson to come back to the PHAC and present on this initiative).*

- (4) HEALTHY YOUTH SURVEY RESULTS** *(Adiba)*: The Healthy Youth Survey, which provides information about youth behavior (in Washington), is administered every two years. Prevention coordinators, community mobilization coalitions, community public health and safety networks, and others use this information to guide policy and programs that serve youth. The information from the Healthy Youth Survey can be used to identify trends in the patterns of behavior over time. In October 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014, students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 in Washington schools answered questions about safety and violence, physical activity and diet, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, as well as related risk and protective factors.

The data results of the last iteration of the survey (2014) were released last week. The best participation rates are with tenth graders. Some of the results include:

- In terms of alcohol, use is going down. More students are saying they think regular drinking is risky, which is comparable to state results.
- About 5% of youth say they have driven a car while drinking. More kids are saying their parents are having conversations about the harm/risk of alcohol and driving. It's been speculated that consistent prevention work has helped to bring the rates down.
- About 10% of tenth graders say they have smoked in the last 30 days, while about double that number of kids are using e-cigarettes. About 4% said they used e-cigarettes four years ago, and that figure is now reported as 21%. *(Greg requested that Public Health look into the co-occurring usage of substances.)*
- In 2014, 34% of tenth graders in our county thought there was little or no risks associated with using marijuana regularly.
- Overall, most youth don't use alcohol or other substances.

*Discussion:*

- Overuse of alcohol creates problems, as does marijuana. There's a perception that because it's legal, it's safe. *(Joan)*
- Public Health is alarmed about the increased use of vaping devices. *(Alan)*
- What do we think explains the dramatic decrease of alcohol with an uptick of just about everything else? Why is this happening? *(Remy)*
  - We can do a literature review, but history has shown that whenever prohibition is lifted, it increases use. *(Alan)*

**(5) MARIJUANA** *(Bob Richardson)*

- **What's happening post legalization:** He thinks there are two issues: (1) driving under the influence and (2) how to regulate it to keep it out of the hands of children.
  - A lot of their complaints come from legitimate businessmen, mostly complaining about those selling the product illegitimately without paying taxes, and so forth.
  - Both Battle Ground and Vancouver Police Departments have experienced very few calls related to the retail or processing centers involved in the retail marijuana market. A retail marijuana store is a little like going into a wine store: there are different brands, flavors, etc. The industry is highly regulated, and the owners of the establishments have a lot invested in their property, plants, etc.
  - Both Battle Ground and Vancouver Police Departments have experienced no crime related to the retail or processing centers involved in the retail marijuana market.

- Law enforcement is more concerned with keeping the retail market away from minors and the impact on DUI drivers.
- Marijuana is addicting; the younger the user, the greater the likelihood that addiction will result (70% of youth in drug treatment are there for marijuana addiction).
- Vapor pens (e-cigarettes) and hash oil are the issues we are facing in schools.
- Drivers 21 or older are permitted a very low amount of the active THC in their blood (up to 5 nanograms) per milliliter of blood. Therefore, it will be illegal for adults to drive with a blood level of 5 nanograms or more.
- Marijuana is showing up more often in blood tests of persons arrested for DUI. However, this action could be the result of new legal requirement to get a search warrant for a blood draw on a DUI who refuses a blood test. In the past, law enforcement would walk away from the arrestee without a blood draw; now they get warrants. The increase in the number of warrants results in an increase in testing, which in turn, results in an increase in positive tests for marijuana.
- Out of all DUI-related crashes for the last three years, 92% were alcohol-related and 8% were drugs/marijuana. However, someone involved in a crash with over a .08 alcohol concentration with marijuana on board will only show up as an alcohol DUI and not a drug-related crash, while someone arrested for a drug-related crash will only show up if drugs are in their blood and they are below the legal limit.

Some issues related to marijuana/law enforcement include:

- Too much time and resources are being utilized to discuss if marijuana should be legalized; the boat has sailed and it's important to address the medical marijuana side of the issue.
- Research is needed of the long-term effects of the sale of hash oil in high concentrations.
- Traffic safety and impacts on minors with a focus on education, prevention, and treatment.
- Use of vapor or e-cigarettes needs to be addressed, as well as the long-term health impacts researched.
- Improved testing processes for blood testing for marijuana and a road side test for enforcement.

***Tod Surdam, Washington State Patrol Officer, guest speaker:***

- There have been a lot of changes with the legalization of marijuana and they happened all at once. The process of obtaining a search warrant for impaired drivers can take anywhere from 5 to 8 hours. In the past, the determination of impaired driving has been based on erratic driving, field testing, interviews, etc. Some deputies have specialized training as "drug recognition experts" and they are able to make a fairly accurate determination of the type of drug responsible for driver's impairment.
- He hasn't really seen an increase in marijuana-affected driving.
- They have no way to test marijuana use in the field.
- The level of training has been increased since the marijuana law passed.
- In the long-term, the criminal justice system has to change, e.g., speeding the process of securing a warrant.
- The state has currently enacted specialized safety troopers in various areas of the state, and all they do is respond to DUIs. Clark County is the next place in the state to get them.

**(6) PROPOSED SIPP LAW RE VAPING DEVICES (Alan)**

▪ **What the ordinance does:**

The Board of Health (BOH) passed an ordinance a couple of years ago that electronic cigarettes couldn't be sold to minors. However, these devices are not prohibited where tobacco is prohibited. Regardless of what people hear about these devices, the products coming out of them are not clean. The agents in the canisters can include toxic substances.

The proposed ordinance takes the existing county code and includes inhalant delivery systems to be subject to the SIPP law (the same as tobacco products). We will have to give a least ten days' notice before the BOH can take action. We want to get this on the BOH agenda for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in April. It would be helpful if the PHAC would go on record in the form of a letter to the BOH in support of the ordinance. We're not suggesting these devices be banned, but that they are regulated the same way we regulate tobacco.

*Discussion:*

- This is being considered statewide. He is considering talking to Representatives Rivers and Harris (they are both sponsors of the vaping legislation) to support making inhalant delivery systems subject to the SIPP law). He's also spoken to restaurateurs, and they don't want to see vaping devices back in their restaurants. *(Paul)*
  - That is a great idea, but it won't happen during this legislature. With regard to your colleagues in the restaurant industry, if you could bring some of those folks to the April meeting BOH meeting, that would be great. *(Alan)*

▪ **Development of PHAC recommendation/advice to BOH:**

Joan moved that the Council prepare a letter in support of the proposed ordinance. The motion was seconded. It was passed unanimously. It was also suggested that PHAC members should be at the BOH meeting on April 22 in support of the ordinance.

**(7) ACES UPDATE**

▪ **Report from Planning Committee:**

We had a "Raising of America" event scheduled for April 23. However, we found out that the series is not what we understood it would be. It was decided to take a different approach. The intent is still to roll out the event, but later in the year. *(Roxanne)*

There is a strong political element to the series, and we don't want to stop the conversation before it starts. However, we will be planning an event. We're working with a very committed group of partners, and we don't want this to become partisan, with the end result that would turn into a non-event. *(Joan)*

The planning committee intends to come back to this committee with a new plan. *(Roxanne)*

**(8) PUBLIC COMMENT**

The council introduced themselves to the University of Portland (UP) students to give them an idea of the breadth of representation. UP students were surprised about the information on vaping devices and that they are not regulated.

**(9) ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned @ 7:50 p.m.