

# ATCA Steering Committee Meeting, February 4, 2008

## Introductions of all members:

Lakota, Anna, Melanie, Marilyn, Christine, Caroline, Carrie, Pat, Lisa, Emily, George, Marge and Wilbur

Wilbur introduced those not present: Lincoln, Suzanne, Laura Revels, Aubie, Laura Muller

**Tobacco Summit report:** Marti Pausback gave an overview of the event and local related activities such as poster contest and health screening. Local steering committee members Caroline and Carrie worked hard on many aspects of the Summit. Marti thanked her committee chairs with 'heartfelt' thanks. (Felt pillow with a red heart)

- Communications Committee – Wilbur
- Content – Celeste
- Hosting – Carrie/Mary

## State Report

Current project update:

- Community Prevention Grant program: great training in November. Seeing more regional groups with some of grantees.  
Great work in Nome on the policy work there, including grantee and others. 4 new community grantees: Valdez, Ketchikan, Copper River, Petersburg.
- Cessation program. Grantees doing well. Recently, have been going through process to write a new RFP and getting input. They have learned lots along the way. Looking at new ways to support cessation in the state. The RFP is coming out soon.
- Media. Kay started at Lung Ass'n. Working on the new survey for the Marc Hellenthal survey.
- Quit Line, vendor is here. Work since last meeting, the vendor started. Lots of processing is happening. They are in process to create AK Native protocol for AK Quitline. Change is time consuming. Other protocols will be developed for other target groups. One of the things excited about is to have Quitline data readily available. Setting up a system so we'll have regular data available, getting out annually. Hours are 4AM – 11PM, 7 days/week. Off hours calls get prompts of other resources.
- School grants going well. Laura's panel includes some grantees.
- Disparities – position is open. Working to get the position posted. Takes time to get through the system. Governor had a freeze on hiring for a couple of weeks.
- Evaluation: They are talking about evaluation broadly and applicable to work of grantees. Reporting templates, with quick and easy ways to get updated data for Alaska.
- Data: Mark Stark is writing a final version will be published in a journal about the process as well as the report/data in journal of preventing chronic disease. They are working to get more AK data published in a national journal. Also publishing cessation data review. A series of fact sheets on low SES meeting almost done.
- Alaska is hosting the western evaluation meeting in May. Group of evaluators from all programs in the western US, talking about data and evaluation will meet in Girdwood. They will have a special event in Anchorage presenting a talk around YRBS data. Working to do a complete analysis on smoking and tobacco use.
- Put in for an increase of 1 million, went into the governor's budget. Part was for one new position for a cessation program. Governor – all was in grants and contracts line, but have been assured we can still use it as a position.

## Policy Report – ATFK – Emily

Statewide – Suzanne Sands, Kate Herring and Emily were in Juneau last week, talking with legislators to increase by 1 million dollars and they were pleased with the reception. Many have been encouraging CDC, best practice, so the education and mantra worked.

House Bill 207 would change how you get parental consent for anonymous student surveys. Doesn't take things back. It keeps in lots of notification provision and makes it stronger. Change is to allow parents to opt their kids out of it. Otherwise it is assumed the students can take it out. It is currently in House Rules Committee, with John Coghill as chair. Had conversations with House members to get it to the floor. If there is demonstration that they have the votes, John will let it out of committee. This is not primarily a tobacco issue, but there are lots of other issues and groups that care about this. Helping those groups behind the scenes, so people are looking to the tobacco folks.

Governor Palin put in just shy of \$600,000 in obesity prevention. Lots more questions about obesity than tobacco. Obesity group is trying to model after the tobacco control. American Cancer and Heart Associations are working on it.

Key message on 207: We need a better way to get data from youth. This bill strengthens parental notification and still allows us a feasible way to get data. \$70,000 spent on pizza parties to get permission slips in.

Anna: worked as a topic of data collection. Worked in to get buy in from other groups at the same time.

Lots of misunderstanding, particularly by a few.

Other local news:

Nome – City Council ordinance. Impressive turnout talking to the council to convince them this isn't the way to go.

There is interest by one Fairbanks City Council member to explore a policy in Fairbanks.

People are more aware of tobacco issues around the world.

Marti offered to take on statewide online forum – jumpstart the Yahoo group.

**Scholarship Committee:** more applicants were received this year. The process is in place, so forms are there. People can apply for scholarships to go to other events throughout the year. Scholarships cover part of the costs. Continue posting on the website. Brenda will look for ways to publish other scholarships on the ATCA website within the membership section.

**Smokefree housing:** Many people were receiving phone calls, so the Alaska Smokefree Housing Partnership work group was formed. Deb, Anna, Emily and others are involved in the teleconferences. Goals were set, along with timelines. First goal centers around getting information together. Income assisted housing authority happened in Prince William Sound area. Working with property managers, give benefits from business angle. Fact sheets. Figure out who might be a central person. Looked for ideas such as changes on real estate disclosure forms to include past smoking or if it is allowed. They hear from many who found out after moving in that there are smokers next door.

Develop a statewide network is first task. Working with owners, renters, private and public. The committee started under ATCA and is part of strategic plan. Perhaps they could add a subheading to the ATCA logo. Nick will inform the committee. Anna announced they are trying to get Jim Bergman to speak at the March 4,5,6 grantee training. First day, reception 4<sup>th</sup> in the evening. Tobacco Law Center.

**Medicaid Third Party Workgroup** – Leader for that group will report at next meeting. First address Medicaid issue and then 3<sup>rd</sup> party payers. First meeting was the original members and they added 2 people from Medicaid. Current Benefits. If others want to know what the

reimbursement is, contact Lisa. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting – expanded group. Current reimbursement (Medicaid) seems that there might be changes that could be made by the group working directly with Medicaid to if the existing reimbursement. For instance, you can only bill for tobacco cessation if that is the primary purpose for the visit, and only by Medicaid approved providers. They are very busy, and that people may see them primarily for something else, and cessation is the secondary reason, so they can't bill Medicaid for them. They are trying to work with Medicaid to get rid of that. Doesn't have to be the primary purpose, but could pay for it regardless – hoping to change wording and negotiate. Working on kinds of providers types that we can bill for it – exploring it. And as we expand we hope to work with 3<sup>rd</sup> party payers are doing and what they might be able to do. Meeting in January. Will have meeting in Feb. Looking at other states and lessons learned from that. Always want more committee members. Partners in general would be good. Different levels of providers. Insurers. And different stakeholders could be brought to the table. Some of discussions have been major insurers, but is this the timing or how/who to approach. And who would they most likely be willing to listen. Having those type of discussions.

**Membership Committee** Six new members approved: Cheryl Dalena, Chelsea Royal, Charlotte Givold, Sarah Angstman, Renae Mathson, Martha Nielsen

**Operational Guidelines:** Each section of the Operational Guidelines was reviewed and revised as needed. Revised Operational Guidelines will be sent to the Steering Committee for final review to verify all changes were noted before posting on the website and sending to members via email.

**Co-Chairs election:**

Nominations included Lincoln, Lakota, Anna, Wilbur, Kate. Paper ballots were distributed and collected. Wilbur and Anna received the most votes and were asked to accept the position before results were announced later during the Tobacco Summit.