

Minutes  
Health Advisory Council  
March 12, 2013

Present: Marva Serotkin, Indira Desai, Kiran Milunsky, Aric Parnes, Peter Buechler, Betty Cohen, Julia Feldman, Brenda Mulligan,

Absent: Dori Zaleznick, Kiran Milunsky

Guests:

Teresa Wood Kett, Program Specialist, Newton Health Department

Wesley Chin, Tobacco Control Coordinator, Newton Health Department

DJ Wilson, Tobacco Control Director, Mass Municipal Association

Teresa reported that Dori was unable to attend due to a conflicting meeting in her schedule.

The minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2013 were approved as written.

The focus of this meeting was to update the members of the Health Advisory Council on current activities and ordinances related to tobacco control in Newton and the surrounding communities that are participating in a 5-community grant from the State of Massachusetts. These are Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Newton and Watertown. The grant is policy-oriented, and provides for a program coordinator and liaison in each town.

The following points were among those discussed:

- While the use of cigarettes has gone down among young people, the use of other tobacco products has increased. These include blunt wraps, cigarillos, mini-cigars, snuss, and tobacco lozenges. These products are inexpensive and available in flavors to appeal to young customers. Use of nicotine delivery products such as e-cigarettes and orbs is also increasing.
- Currently in Newton, the purchase of cigarettes and other tobacco products is restricted to persons aged 18 and older. Compliance monitoring has shown that Newton retailers are generally doing well in checking for age identification. Sale of nicotine delivery systems is currently unregulated.

A checklist of regulations that could be added to Newton's expand ordinances was presented. The council members will review the list and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, June 11**