

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL ALLIANCE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

ATTENDANCE: Sam Knox, Mike Carter, Nancy Hoeman, Sandra Grajirenesortez, Vickie Sanchez, Cheryl Clay, Joanne Lewis, Valerie Butler

- I. Greeting and Introductions – Samuel Knox, SW Alliance Chair
Thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.
- II. Cancer Prevention Research Study – Cheryl Clay, NAACP
They have partnered with the American Cancer Society in a program called C3P. They are looking for minorities, 30-65 yrs of age who are cancer free, to volunteer for a nationwide confidential study. Kansas City Springfield and St. Louis are test sites for Missouri. They will draw blood and in 3 years will send out a letter to follow-up. To be a part of the study, go to cancerstudy.org or call 888-604-5888.
- III. Menthol in Cigarettes & FDA Regulations/Report on “Deaths From Second Hand Smoke Exposure” – Mike Carter
Menthol: In 2009, President Obama signed a bill establish the tobacco control act. This gave the FDA (Federal Drug Administration) authority over the tobacco drug use. The FDA has taken out the other substances, and now, the issue is whether to take out menthol. It is believed that the tobacco industry left in menthol to target a large group of users in the U.S., specifically the African American and Hispanic communities.

The National African American Tobacco Prevention Network (NAATPN) is lobbying for the FDA to remove menthol. There are studies that show menthol in cigarettes was left in by the tobacco industry to target African

Americans and Hispanics. Fifty percent of deaths in African Americans are attributed to smoking related illnesses, which includes heart disease, diabetes, and lung cancer (72% for White and 42% for Hispanics).

The three major tobacco companies are Phillip Morris – Malbaro, Lorillard – Newport, R.J. Reynolds - Cools and Salem (no longer on the market). Eight out of 10 Black youth smoke Newport cigarettes because of the menthol.

“African Americans and Secondhand Smoke” is an article that is available from Americans for Nonsmoking Rights (ANR). To retrieve this article, go to <http://www.no-smoke.org/learnmore.php?id=465>. You will also find a list of all of their articles. You can contact Mike at 417-895-6968 or email to mike.carter@health.mo.gov.

IV. Healthy Food Pantry Collaborative and The Chronic Disease Self Management Program – Glenda Miller

Vickie Sanchez presented for Glenda Miller. This issue came about because of those with heart failure and the food at the pantries is high in sodium. The Collaborative received a small grant to help pantries collaborate with each other, identify ways to educate those running the pantries, and make the food healthy. Cox had a food drive and the food was donated to the food pantry.

V. Announcements and Other News

Hand extended food pantries, putting together a collaborative of all food pantries and what they offer. sandrag@visitdayspring.org

Unsafe sleep environments for babies. Disproportionately rates in the AA community. The last death was on the couch with baby on their tummy. Sandra asked for individuals to help identify ways to get the message to the minority communities. One educational strategy is through beauty

salons. Sandra can be reached at 417-864-1676 or email to nhoeman@springfieldmo.gov.

Samuel Knox thanked Valerie Butler for reviewing and editing the Resource Directory. Five hundred were printed, 200 went to the WIC Program at Jordan Valley, 200 went to the Springfield Health Department, 50 went to Hand In Hand, and 50 went to Deliverance Temple Church.

VI. Adjournment

Samuel Knox thanked every for being on the call. The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.