

Illegal Tobacco Task Force Minutes

Meeting Date: April 24, 2018

Meeting Time: 1:00pm

Meeting Location: 100 Cambridge Street, 2nd Floor, Conference Room A

Board Members Present: Kajal Chattopadhyay (Co-Chair), Capt. Steve Fennessy (Co-Chair), Doug Levine, Patricia Henley, Tom Bocian, Amber Villa, Michael Sweeney

Others: Evan Garcia, Rick Epstein, Brenda McConville, Scott Cliff, John Donohue, Molly Slingerland, Scott Delaney, Dave Cahill, Peter French, Victor Solórzano, Paul D'Amore, Josh Brabazon, Peter Rubenacher, Marielle Matthews, Melody Kingsley

Call to Order:

- Mr. Chattopadhyay called the meeting to order at 1:11pm and gave a brief overview of the last Task Force meeting.
- It was determined that the Task Force would seek further guidance from the FDA on the smokeless tobacco stamping proposal.
- Task Force members were asked to review the previous meeting minutes. There were a few suggestions to amend the minutes to include corrections/changes.
 - Motion: Made by Mr. Sweeney, as amended
 - Second: Made by Ms. Villa, also as amended. Ms. Villa requested a modification of a comment attributed to her. Mr. Chattopadhyay noted the modification.
 - Minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Housekeeping Items:

- Mr. Chattopadhyay asked all member agencies for member updates. None were given.
- According to Mr. Chattopadhyay, there were no further updates or developments relating to the Task Force's proposed legislation which is pending in the House.

FDA Follow-up Discussion:

- Ms. Villa worked on some additional follow-up questions for the FDA.
- Mr. Chattopadhyay asked the Task Force to review and/or submit any updates or edits.
- DPH suggested the Task Force be very clear with questions, as to not open up a can of worms. Mr. Chattopadhyay and Ms. Villa agreed. Follow-up questions will be submitted to FDA by the close of the week, according to Mr. Chattopadhyay.
- Mr. Chattopadhyay also wanted to report back to the group on where other states stood on OTP stamping. Washington decided against OTP stamping while Minnesota passed a statute

requiring OTP to be stamped. Mr. Chattopadhyay had no other information relating to the current status of OTP stamping in Minnesota. Mr. Chattopadhyay said he was unsure if they (Minnesota) had begun looking into machines yet.

- Mr. Bocian asked why Washington tabled their plan. Mr. Chattopadhyay stated there were no machines at the time and expected machine costs were much higher than those currently being discussed by the Task Force.

POST Presentation:

- Task Force agency DPH presented their online platform for information sharing. The platform is called Point Of Sale Toolkit (POST).
- DPH's chosen vendor, Counter Tools, did a live demo of the system.
- MA currently has 3 pilot users: Fall River, South Hadley, and the Berkshires. These are DPH and Board of Health (BOH) joint collaborative areas.
- Task Force members were shown how the platform will work and what information will be readily available.
- Mr. Bocian asked whether the state has access to this level of data. Ms. Henley of DPH stated currently just her agency does.
- Mr. Chattopadhyay also mentioned that this level of data access will assist Task Force member agencies in sharing information regarding store inspections and so forth.
- Other topics discussed relating to POST by the Task Force included FDA oversight and/or relationship, what information is shared publicly and how the toolkit will work with respect to user access levels and access hierarchy.
- Ms. Henley will keep the Task Force abreast of the timeline over the summer as the system gets ready to go live. She will take any questions the Task Force members may have and forward them to the vendor.

Other Business:

- Mr. Chattopadhyay set the next meeting for June 6, 2018 and will largely focus on responses from the FDA to the Task Force's follow-up questions.
- Meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm by Mr. Chattopadhyay.