

Gilchrist County Tobacco-Free Partnership: Quarterly Meeting 12/9/2009

Attendance: 12 adults and 5 youth

QuitDoc Tobacco Prevention Specialists; QuitDoc Policy Manager; Gilchrist County Commissioner; Suwannee AHEC representative; Gilchrist County Department of Health personnel; local SWAT & 4-H club leadership (Please see sign-up list)

Agenda:

Explanation of the partnership, election of new officers, discussion about the role of the Executive Committee, membership responsibilities and voting privileges, understanding and approval of TFP By-Laws, and the discussion of new business with ideas about partnership focus on particular strategic goals to meet our SMART Objectives

Meeting:

The first Gilchrist TFP meeting to have a County Commissioner attend and give practical guidance about the structure and meaning of the TFP by-laws as well as advice for partnership strategy

Summary:

QuitDoc Tobacco Prevention Specialist called the meeting to order, explaining the TFP's four main objectives along with the grant renewal. Next she gave a description of the Executive Committee and election of new officers for the TFP. TFP members nominated and elected Gilchrist County Department of Health staff as the Chair and Co-Chair. One of the SWAT members was chosen to become the TFP's Youth Representative as well. After wards, the TFP by-laws were reviewed and several issues about the nature of membership and the role of the Executive Committee were clarified. A motion was then made for the Executive Committee to pass the by-laws which then were signed. An update report on SWAT activities followed and an announcement about the upcoming city event, Christmas on Main Street was made to encourage members to participate and help. Finally, a discussion was brought forth regarding the issue of smoke-free zones outside the county courthouse and the possibility to seek a blanket policy for all county buildings. The County Commissioner offered a suggestion to have the youth poll local people, businesses, and leaders to assess the level of support and he encouraged the partnership to visit a Commission meeting as an entire group. In addition, the new TFP Chair brought up the possibility of promoting the TFP and tobacco issues at the next Tri-County Health Fair. A concerned citizen brought up the issue of smoking at the last county fair as her health had been adversely affected because of second-hand smoke. It was highly encouraged by the County Commissioner to have an approach of being kind to one's neighbor as a successful message to share with others in order to gain ground.

Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07pm.