

Karla Sneegas:

With nearly 20 years experience in the arena of tobacco prevention and control, Karla S. Sneegas serves as the Assistant Commissioner of the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Commission of the Indiana State Department of Health. This new commission was created in 2011 from the former Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Agency. Mrs. Sneegas served as Executive Director from 2001-2011.

Mrs. Sneegas is responsible for overseeing Indiana's coordinated and comprehensive tobacco prevention and cessation program. The program is funded through Indiana's Master Settlement Agreement with the tobacco companies and is tasked with implementing a comprehensive program following the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Best Practices for Tobacco Control.

Under her leadership, Indiana has seen great change for tobacco control. Smoking among Hoosier adults decrease by 23%, from a high of 27% to the lowest rate ever of 21%. The smoking rate for Indiana high school youth dropped from 32% to 17%. The proportion of Hoosiers protected from exposure to secondhand smoke has increased to 36 percent through 33 local community workplace and restaurant ordinances. Tobacco control policies that lead to behavior change are increasing annually. And, more than ever before, local tobacco control programs are alive and leading to change is in Indiana's counties.

Mrs. Sneegas is the current chair for the National Tobacco Control Network. She is an elected board member to the North American Quitline Consortium and currently serves as the Board's Chair-Elect.

Prior to 2001, Mrs. Sneegas was a national consultant to a number of tobacco prevention and control organizations. Her clients included the Advocacy Institute and numerous state and local programs and coalitions. Mrs. Sneegas co-facilitated the Creativity in Leadership Course for the National Tobacco Use Prevention Institute for six years. She also co-chaired the Skill Building Workshop Committee for the 11th World Tobacco Conference held in Chicago, IL in 2000. From 1992 until 1994, she directed South Carolina's ASSIST program and that state's tobacco prevention coalition.

Mrs. Sneegas earned a Master of Public Health degree from the University of South Carolina and a B.S. in Education from Western Kentucky University.