

Read on for announcements from the [Tobacco Control Network](#) (TCN) and our partners.

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# TCN News

*News and announcements from the Tobacco Control Network*

## A Letter from the Chair

Dear TCN Members,

We are excited to share that we will be launching our new website at the end of June!

This new website will have an updated state directory containing contact information for each staff member. We will announce the URL when the page is live later this month. Note that because we are busy preparing for the new website that the current [TCN website](#) is no longer being updated. The information on the current website remains available to you as a source of historical information and will be accessible in the future. The next step will be to develop a password protected section for us to access information that is available only to TCN members.

Also just a friendly reminder that effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, emails sent to [tcnlist@emory.edu](mailto:tcnlist@emory.edu) and [TCN@sph.emory.edu](mailto:TCN@sph.emory.edu) will be returned to the sender. Please update your records to reflect that **the correct email address to reach the TCN is [TCN@astho.org](mailto:TCN@astho.org)**.

If you have any information that you would like to have included in an upcoming issues of the TCN News or have suggestions on the format, please contact [Diana](#)

*The biweekly **TCN News** provides a concise digest of tobacco control announcements to the Tobacco Control Network's membership base of tobacco control program managers and additional staff from each state, territory, and D.C., as well as our valued partners.*

## Upcoming events

[Webinar: Tobacco Control and Cancer Survivorship: From Science to Strategies](#) – National Cancer Institute  
June 16 | 2:00– 3:00 pm ET

[Webinar: Essential Guide to the Master Settlement Agreement](#) – Public Health Law Center  
June 22 | 2:30 pm CT

[Leveraging Innovations in Health Information Technology to Advance Public Health: How are states using data to inform policies, programs, and action?](#) – ASTHO  
June 29 | 1:00 pm ET

[Karczmarczyk.](#)

Best,

**Miranda Spitznagle**

**TCN Chair**

## Help Your Peers

*This is the current circulating Help Your Peers request.*

### **Communications plans regarding their Quitline or Tobacco Cessation**

**Deadline: June 24, 2015**

I have recently entered into the position of Tobacco Cessation Coordinator for the State of Nevada Health Division. I have only been in the position for 3 weeks, and am trying to tackle a communications plan for our Quitline Capacity Grant. I am hoping that other states who have developed communications plans regarding their Quitline or Tobacco Cessation, will be willing to share ideas, successes, and failures. I could also use some advice on how detailed the plan should be...how much information should be included? Anyone willing to share or provide advice?

*If you have any information to share or can connect us with someone who does, please reply to [tcn@astho.org](mailto:tcn@astho.org). We will connect you with the person who submitted the request and/or compile all the answers provided and share them with the requestor.*

## Partner Announcements

### **Comment Period Open on Draft Guidance Related to Imposing a NTSO on a Retailer- TCLC.**

The FDA recently announced a draft guidance related to imposing a no-tobacco-sale order (NTSO) on a retailer who has committed repeated violations of certain restrictions on the sale and

### [Biomarkers of Tobacco Exposure: A Public Workshop](#)

– FDA

Aug 3-4 | Register by July 10<sup>th</sup>

### [National Conference on Health Communication, Marketing, and Media](#)

– National Public Health Information Coalition

Aug 11- 13 | Register by July 24<sup>th</sup>

### [2015 National Conference on Tackling Tobacco Use in Vulnerable Populations](#)

– Danyain Institute

October 5-6 | Register by August 3<sup>rd</sup>

### [Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training](#)

– Rutgers, Center for Tobacco Studies & The Division of Addiction Psychiatry

Oct 5-9 | Registration Required

## Funding Opportunities

### [Grants for Smoke/Tobacco-Free Community College Policies.](#)

**Deadline: August 6, 2015.**

Legacy is providing a grant of \$5,000 per year to community colleges to support their efforts in creating and implementing 100% smoke free or 100% tobacco free policies.

### [Smokeless Tobacco Reference Products Program.](#)

**Deadline: June 12, 2015.** The FDA-CTP is looking for applicants to develop reference smokeless tobacco

distribution of tobacco products. After reviewing the draft, the Tobacco Control Legal Consortium (TCLC) has identified some concerns that they think TCN members may share. First, in order to ensure compliance with an NTSO, the FDA suggests but does not require that a retailer either cover products or remove them from shelves. Second, there is no requirement in the draft guidance relating to communicating with consumers. The FDA posts information in its compliance database but does not require retailers to post a notice about the receipt of an NTSO. Finally, the guidance fails to make clear that changes in ownership do not affect an NTSO. At the local level, many licensing laws have strict standards related to the transfer of licenses, so that if a retailer receives a local NTSO, they can't just hand the business over to someone else who doesn't have an NTSO and continue sales. The FDA should make it clear in final guidance that the NTSO follows the business and not the owner of the establishment.

Given the expertise of TCN members in the areas of implementation and enforcement, the TCLC suggests that input from members of the TCN would be very helpful to improve the draft guidance before it becomes final. You can [view the full draft guidance](#) and [submit a comment](#) online.

**The deadline for public comments is June 29, 2015.**

**FDA Announces Interim Enforcement Policy Related to Substantial Equivalence FAQ Guidance-** *FDA*. While FDA considers new comments to the recently issued [Demonstrating the Substantial Equivalence of a New Tobacco Product: Responses to Frequently Asked Questions](#) guidance, the agency has announced its interim enforcement policy.

### State News

[California Senate Votes to Raise the Smoking Age from 18 to 21](#) (CA). A bill to raise the smoking age was approved by the Senate 26 to 8 on June 2, 2015. The bill is now awaiting state assembly approval.

[Case Study on Medicaid Tobacco Cessation Coverage in](#)

products to be used for research and quality control purposes. Letters of intent are due June 12, 2015, and applications are due July 31, 2015, by 8 p.m. ET.

### Job listings

[DHHS Program Manager II  
Nebraska Department of  
Health & Human Services  
Lincoln, NE](#)

[Tobacco Prevention and  
Control Youth Coordinator  
Wisconsin Department of  
Health Services  
Madison, WI](#)

[Prevention Specialist, Public  
Health Division  
Wyoming Department of  
Health  
Cheyenne, WY](#)

[Associate Health Program  
Adviser, California Tobacco  
Control Program  
California Department of  
Public Health  
Sacramento, CA](#)

[Health Program Specialist II,  
California Tobacco Control  
Program  
California Department of  
Public Health  
Sacramento, CA](#)

[Health Program Specialist I,  
California Tobacco Control  
Program  
California Department of  
Public Health  
Sacramento, CA](#)

[Oklahoma](#) (OK). The American Lung Association published a case study on Oklahoma's efforts to improve tobacco use prevention and cessation. Smoking rates have decreased considerably for members of Oklahoma's Medicaid program as a result of near-comprehensive and barrier free Medicaid cessation coverage, leveraging funding sources to build cessation infrastructure, and increasing referrals to the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline.

## In the News

[Tobacco Companies Dropped their Lawsuit Against the FDA on Product Labeling](#)- *Reuters*. The three largest U.S. tobacco companies dismissed their lawsuit after the FDA said it would reconsider oversight over tobacco labels on May 29, 2015. The FDA declared that the Tobacco Control Act will remain in place while the agency decides whether to pursue stricter tobacco labeling regulations.

[The European Society of Cardiology \(ESC\) Warns that all Forms of Smoking are Bad for the Heart](#) – *MNT*. Studies suggest that smoking tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and water pipes (hookah), is the leading risk factor for developing cardiovascular disease. The ESC recommends age restriction, marketing, and flavor regulation of all tobacco products in order to decrease the risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

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## Research

[Country Laws Regulating E-cigarettes: A Policy Scan](#) – *Global Tobacco Control*. **Key Findings:** A review of 123 countries showed that 71 countries have federal laws that regulate the sale, taxation, and marketing of e-cigarettes. Regulation strategies vary by country: 26 countries regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products, 17 as medicinal products, and four as poisons.

[Chemicals Used to Flavor E-cigarettes Alter Lungs at Cellular Level](#) – *American Thoracic Society*. **Key Findings:** Researchers at UNC

## About the Tobacco Control Network

The TCN's mission is to improve the public's health by providing education and state-based expertise to tobacco prevention and control at the state and national levels.

The TCN is managed by the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) (ASTHO) on behalf of the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health.

## About ASTHO

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit association representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to ensuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

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Chapel Hill found that five out of 13 e-cigarette flavors tested altered the proliferation, viability and calcium signaling of cells in the lung tissue. Some flavors like menthol, hot cinnamon candies, and banana pudding were also shown to be toxic at higher doses.



[Predictors of Smoke-Free Policies in Affordable Multiunit Housing, North Carolina, 2013](#) – *Preventing Chronic Disease*. **Key Findings:** A survey of affordable housing properties in North Carolina showed that only 16.9% of properties had smoke free policies in residential units, and only 69.6% had smoke free common areas. Data also indicated a correlation between number of children per unit and the absence of smoke free policies.

[The Association of Point-of-Sale Cigarette Marketing with Cravings to Smoke: Results from a Cross-Sectional Population-Based Study](#) – *Tobacco Control*. **Key Findings:** Data from a telephone survey in Nebraska showed that point of sale advertisements and displays were associated with increased craving to smoke. Regulations of point of sale marketing could decrease tobacco cravings and impulse purchases of tobacco products.

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