ASTHO Tobacco Issues Forum

ASTHO’s tobacco control program serves as a resource on perspectives, capacities, challenges and opportunities to implement state-based tobacco control and prevention initiatives. We provide national leadership in linking and aligning tobacco control with other chronic disease prevention areas such as obesity, cancer, heart disease and stroke.

The overarching goals of this program are to enhance the capacity of state health agency tobacco prevention programs to improve tobacco-related policies and practice; foster environmental, cultural and systems change; and serve as a resource to ASTHO members on tobacco–related initiatives.

**Tobacco Issues Forum (TIF):**

The Tobacco Issues Forum is a workgroup led by ASTHO, currently chaired by Dr. Ed Ehlinger (MN) under the guidance of our Prevention Policy Committee and comprised of members and staff from key affiliate and partner organizations. The group serves as an opportunity to share tobacco control activities and resources, identify opportunities to speak in a collective voices, and examine the overall picture of tobacco prevention and control in the states. The TIF holds partner calls every other month and also ASTHO maintains an email listserv for group members to help facilitate information-sharing between and improve coordination and collaboration around tobacco-related policy at the state level. Calls focus on a on a variety of issues including implementation of the Tobacco Control Act, the effect of graphic warning labels on cigarette pack and ads on state quit lines, CMS’s new provisions to cover cessation for pregnant women and a portion of quit lines, and other emerging topics

**TIF Members**

The Tobacco Issues Forum is chaired by Minnesota’s Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Ed Ehlinger. Members include staff and members from partner organizations such as: the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), the Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE), the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP), and National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Tobacco Control Network (TCN) and a representative from CDC’s Office on Smoking and Health.
**Tobacco Control Resources:**

ASTHO provides support and resources to the states for the development of policies that encourage healthy environments and prevent tobacco use by youths at:

http://www.astho.org/Programs/Prevention/Tobacco/

ASTHO's position statement in support of aggressive efforts to reduce tobacco use, tobacco-attributable health disparities, and tobacco-related morbidity and mortality is available at: