



Maryland Teens Rejecting Abusive Smoking Habits
Youth Advisory Board Meeting Notes/Recap

C. Burr Artz Public Library, Frederick, MD

January 10, 2009

(11:45-3:30)

Speaker: Kathleen Dachille:

We learned about:

- Maryland Legislative Process
 - How a bill becomes a law
 - Some tips during hearings/testimonies:
 - Take flyers
 - Be concise (VERY limited time to speak)
 - Talk about the fiscal impact of the bill (They care about \$\$!)
 - Be personal (give personal examples)
- Upcoming issues for the 2009 General Assembly
 - New bill trying to passed that requires cigars to packaged in fives instead of singles.
 - WHY:
 - Easy for kids to produce the 60 cents to pay for single cigars vs. the \$3 for a five pack
 - No health warnings on the single cigars
 - Maryland is required to provide \$21 million for tobacco prevention related programs (such as T.R.A.S.H.) however this requirement has never been met.

Letters:

- All coalitions should write a letter and email it to Dana by Feb. 1
- Examples of who letters can be addressed to:
 - Newspaper (School, Local...)
 - Principal of your school
 - Policymakers (State Representatives, State Senators, Governor, US Senators, Local legislators)
- Letter Writing Tips: (See letter written by Mai and Letter Writing Handouts)
 - Be clear and concise
 - First state the problem/issue
 - Be personal, give personal examples
 - Provide statistics or facts
 - Good places to find stats/facts:
 - cdc.gov (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- mdquit.org
- Give your solution(s) to the problem/issue

Website Ideas:

- 3D interactive box with coalition information
- Profiles of members
- No smoking badge for social networking sites (Facebook/MySpace...)
- Coalition profiles/pages/blogs
- Free Blogs- wordpress.org
- Translate to different languages or have articles in other languages
- Post Job/internship opportunities
- Events search or organize events by county/coalition
- Events calendar
- Writers can write articles for the site and receive SSL hours

Funding Tips:

- Ask companies for donations
- Fundraisers:
 - Collaborate with Restaurants -- receive a percentage of the profits from an “Eat Out” Night
 - Carwashes
 - Sell pizzas/cookies

Reminders:

- Seniors must be replaced
- Train other members so they are not clueless when they come next year!
- Coalitions should be actively be recruiting new members
- Next meeting in March

Great meeting everybody! See you in the Spring! (Hopefully it won't snow then :p)