

Dixie County Tobacco-Free Partnership: Quarterly Meeting 1/26/2012

Attendance:

Quit Doc Foundation Tobacco Prevention Specialist; Quit Doc Foundation Policy Manager; Chairman of Dixie County Board of County Commissioners; Town of Cross City Clerk, City Manager, and Cross City Mayor; Suwannee River Chamber & Dixie Education Foundation leader; Suwannee River AHEC Representative; Dixie County Superintendent of Schools; Dixie High SWAT Advisor; Dixie High SWAT Youth Leadership; Dixie County Tax Collector; Dixie School District Policy/Facilities Director; Haven Hospice Staff member and Volunteer

Agenda:

High School and Middle School SWAT Report, School Future Now program, 2012-15 grant renewal, AHEC collaboration, Candy-flavored Tobacco ordinance update, and Mr. Rick Bender as a special guest speaker on spit tobacco

Meeting:

This quarterly meeting's main purpose is to allow nationally re-known speaker and oral cancer survivor Rick Bender present on spit tobacco to an audience that includes key county and city decision-makers as well as interested partners and other disparate populations from the community who were invited via the local newspaper and free radio public service announcements.

Summary:

The Dixie County Tobacco-Free Partnership Chair welcomed members and guests including the mayor of Cross City and County Commission Chair along with newcomers Superintendent of Schools and County Tax Collector. Old Business included Quit Doc's Policy Manager explaining the 2012-15 grant renewal and thanking members for their letters of support. The ordinance and enforcement of candy-flavored tobacco placement was mentioned with a reminder about the importance of monitoring. He then introduced the Suwannee River AHEC Representative who facilitates local cessation classes for tobacco users that want to quit. Afterward, Dixie SWAT officers shared their recent and upcoming activities with the partnership with Kick Butts Day in March being the biggest event in which to prepare and draw awareness. The partnership chair thanked the partnership for the recent sponsorship of the Future Now Education program as tobacco-free messaging would be part of this healthy choices program geared towards not only students but their parents also. Lastly, special guest speaker and oral cancer survivor Rick Bender gave a very thorough PowerPoint presentation on why spit tobacco use can be so harmful and deadly.

Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30pm.