

From "Suzanne Hilts" <shilts@doverma.gov>
To "anthony ishak" <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com>
Date 2025-01-27 17:27:39+00:00
Subject Re: Greetings and Tobacco Public Health Policy Idea for Dover

Hi Anthony,

I hope you had a great weekend! I wanted to follow up with you to ensure that you are attending our meeting next Monday, February 3 at 6:30 p.m. Prior to meetings, I have to submit an agenda by Thursday so the meeting can be posted, I wanted to be sure you will be joining us before doing so. Please let me know if anything has changed or if you have any questions.

Thank you

On Tue, Jan 21, 2025 at 9:46 AM Suzanne Hilts <shilts@doverma.gov> wrote:

Hi Anthony,

I am happy to hear you will be joining us on February 3! Firstly, you will have 15-20 minutes to present on Endgame Tobacco. This would be the only item on the agenda for this meeting, aside from routine meeting procedures. This meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. on February 3 via zoom; I will be sure to send you the invitation through this email address prior to the meeting.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Have a great day!

On Fri, Jan 17, 2025 at 8:01 AM anthony ishak <aishakpharmd@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thanks for the opportunity Kay,

Can I be scheduled for February 3? Please let me know how much time I will have and when will the topic appear on the agenda. Also, do you and the board need model language?

Thanks,
Anthony

Sent on the go

On Jan 16, 2025, at 8:24 PM, Kay Petersen <kpetersen@doverma.gov> wrote:

Hi Anthony,

Thanks for reaching out and sharing the materials, and thanks for doing the great work that you do!

Our board discussed the material in your attachments at our meeting on Monday, Jan 13. We decided that we'd like to have someone from your group talk to us at our February meeting if that would be possible. We meet on the first or second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm on Zoom. That would mean either February 3 or 10. Does either date sound feasible?

I've copied our admin, Suzanne Hilts, on this email. If you think that either date might work, she can work with you on the details.

Thanks again for reaching out.

Best regards,

Kay

Kay Petersen, MD
Chair, Dover Board of Health
Dover, MA 02030
617-966-3558

On Sun, Jan 12, 2025 at 7:43 PM Anthony Ishak
<aishakpharmd@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi Dr. Petersen (Kay) ,

I hope you are enjoying your retirement and time away from me pestering you with knocks on the door of your office :). As you recall from my time on Brookline's Town Meeting, I worked on a couple of policies to decrease tobacco use in our town. One of these is the Nicotine Free Generation concept. This is a by-law to phase out tobacco sales by freezing the age of purchase to anyone born before a particular age (1/1/2000 in our case). This essentially prevents new people from getting addicted without taking away the rights of those already of age. It also minimizes impact to retailers since it slowly phases it out allowing them to adjust their business models over years. It was originally proposed in Singapore (more info: [The tobacco-free generation proposal](#)) and there is information attached in a NEJM article and FAQ sheet. We were the first municipality/country/state to implement it. Since the State Judicial Court upheld it 9-0 in spring of 2024 ([Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Upholds Tobacco-Free Generation Law](#)), we have added 11 communities. Newton will be voting on it 1/21 and Somerville is in the process of scheduling a public hearing to implement it. Pellham has also passed it by resolution (they do not have a retailer) and the Statehouse is in the process of filing a bill for statewide policy. I am reaching out to you to encourage this momentum by expanding our geographic reach and to see if Dover will join our growing list. In order for statewide implementation to occur there needs to be significant uptake by municipalities and geographic diversity. Dover appears to have only 2 retailers, but the tobacco use rate is ~20% higher vs the state average (16.53 vs 13.8) . This policy *prevents new users and thus does not impact current users*. It would help to reduce the disparity in addiction between Dover and the rest of the state.

I am a member of a volunteer group that includes a pediatrician, public health officials, tobacco control and attorneys (Kate Silbaugh, my co-petitioner and author on the NEJM article, and Mark Gotlieb of PHAI that defended Brookline before the SJC).

I have bcc'd the other Board of Health members to avoid OML violations and would like to request if we can provide information at one of your upcoming meetings so that Dover can join us in the fight to end nicotine addiction.

Thanks and Happy Belated New Year,
Anthony

Anthony Ishak Pharm.D. BCPS
he/his/him

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