

From: Jim Wilusz <Jim@tritownhealth.org>
Sent: Jun 11, 2025 15:54:11.000000000 UTC
Subject: Fwd: Lack of contoured coordination
To: Maureen Buzby <mbuzby@cityofmelrose.org>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Wilusz <jim@tritownhealth.org>
Date: June 11, 2025 at 11:53:46AM EDT
To: Mary Brush <mary.brush@mass.gov>
Subject: Re: Lack of contoured coordination

Mary, I find this very disturbing and frustrated that we are completely not in the loop on this process and I find it grossly disrespectful and a complete lost opportunity. We are asked to set up a work plan and report on a quarterly basis on stakeholder engagement, community engagement, and strategies to advance equity in tobacco control, and then I come across this which completely goes against all the things we're trying to accomplish. this will end up on my quarter four report with challenges.

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On Jun 11, 2025, at 10:33AM, Brush, Mary (DPH) <mary.brush@mass.gov> wrote:

Thanks for sharing Jim. I am going to share with the team here as well. I will get back to you with any conversations we have.

See you tomorrow,
Mary

From: Jim Wilusz <Jim@tritownhealth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 6:17 AM
To: Brush, Mary (DPH) <mary.brush@mass.gov>; Joyce Brewer <JBrewer@berkshireahec.org>
Cc: Kate Fletcher <kate@tritownhealth.org>
Subject: Lack of contoured coordination

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Folks, I am passing this link around as it just came across my desk and I had an inquiry from a couple parents asking if my team is attending this event since we are working on tons of tobacco control policies, especially in central and north county.

A tobacco conference is being held this weekend and we had no information on it other than reading it in the paper.

For the past 30 years Tri-Town Health Department has been the flagship department working on tobacco control, including being the leadership department passing several dozens of tobacco regulations with not much support from others. Many years ago MTCP required both organizations to work together on work plans and a coordinated approach to get our communities in better shape and now it feels completely fractured.

I find this article very troublesome that I wasn't even consulted once or given the respect of letting me know. I could have provided input at least, other ideas, and even attending to support the conference. I find it strikingly odd that Berkshire regional planning commission who has does nothing to do with tobacco control, nor has any expertise on tobacco use was a major partner in this project.

Our current program is focusing on several updated regulations, having trouble recruiting youth, knee deep in violations and enforcement and have reached out to other organizations several times on tobacco control issues.

We are currently working on NFG across the county and many other goings on and to find out that this program is being held without any communication at all on this this project is extremely disappointing and major missed opportunity.

<https://www.iberkshires.com/story/79261/Tobacco-Free-Partnership-Hosting-YOuth-Vaping-Conference-Saturday.html>

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