

**Worksite Wellness Council of RI (WWCRI)
Worksite Tobacco Control Initiative
Summary of Activity
July 2004 – December 2004**

During the time period July 2004 – December 2004, the Tobacco Control Consultant had contact with 72 companies. The following are key accomplishments for this period.

Promote Quitting among Adults

- 16 employers representing 142 employees collectively conducted on-site tobacco treatment orientation sessions.
- 9 employers conducted on-site tobacco treatment programs resulting in 45 employees collectively quitting smoking.
- 1 employer convened an on-site program 12/04 with 8 enrolled.
- 7 employers representing at least 68 employees are scheduled to conduct an on-site tobacco treatment program after January 1, 2005.
- 3 employers are scheduled to conduct tobacco treatment orientation sessions after January 1, 2005.
- 5 employers conducted Health Fairs, which included information on tobacco treatment resources.
- 1 employer with 5 affiliates and several thousand employees - has convened a Smoking Cessation Program Planning Committee.
- 50 employers promoted 1-800-Try-To-Stop Tobacco Treatment Program and other tobacco treatment programs.

Note: Treatment referred to above includes both TryToStop, BCBSRI Smoke-free and ALA Freedom from Smoking.

In addition, the WWCRI worked with:

- DOH Tobacco Control Program - to establish a procedure to deliver worksite tobacco treatment programs on-site.
- United HealthCare – to develop a strategy for Account Reps to promote tobacco treatment for insured companies.
- Landmark Occupational Health and Rehab – to provide tobacco treatment materials for distribution to patients being treated for occupational injuries and illnesses.

Eliminate Exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS)

Working with the WWCRI, the ALARI, BCBSRI and UnitedHealthcare, 28 employers representing 10,800 employees improved their smoking policies as stated below. All but three employers implemented these improvements as a direct result of the Smoke-free Workplace Law.

- 7 employers representing 2,950 employees improved their smoking policy to “no smoking on the premises”.
- 9 employers representing 1,990 employees improved their policy to “no smoking in buildings” effective March 1, 2005.
- 13 employers representing 5,840 employees placed further restrictions on their smoking policy to include separation from buildings so to prevent migration of smoke – 4 implemented changes Oct. 1, 2004 with the other 8 implementing changes March 1, 2005.
- 1 employer representing 20 employees improved its’ smoking policy to include enforcement of no smoking in company vehicles effective March 1, 2005.

In addition, 98 employers were educated on the Smoke-free Workplace Law as follows:

WWCRI Smoke-free Law Session - NRI Chamber Expo 10/21/04 - 13 employers
Warwick Cancer Council Educational Breakfast 9/22/04 – 14 employers
WWCRI Consultant Meetings – 19 employers
BSBCRI Tobacco Control Specialist Meetings -19 employers
Regulatory Hearings – 1 employer
WWCRI Council Meeting 9/14/04 – Senator Roberts presented - 15 employers
WWCRI Wellness University 10/20/04 – 17 employers

Identify and Eliminate Disparities among Populations

Comprehensive Tobacco Control Initiative (CTC) – The WWCRI is partnering with the CTC’s to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law through a series of business roundtables. The WWCRI will present information on implementing the law, policy and tobacco treatment options. The schedule for the roundtables is as follows:

- Woonsocket Substance Abuse Task Force – 2/14/05
- East Providence Substance Abuse Task Force – 2/17/05
- Pawtucket Substance Abuse Task Force – 2/23/05
- Channel One/Progreso Latino – 2/22/05
- Providence (Urban League, International Institute, SEDC, Progreso Latino and the RI Indian Council) – 2/28/05

Partnerships/Collaborations with other Groups/Agencies

1. American Lung Association – information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating on a Worksite Asthma Control Program. The Worksite Asthma Control Committee has been established and the first scheduled meeting is to be held January 19, 2005. The ALA also participated in employer health fairs.

2. American Cancer Society - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating. Participation at employer health fairs. Plans are to conduct business roundtables to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law. A roundtable in the Westerly area is being planned.
3. American Heart Association – information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating on Go Red for Women Breakfast.
4. Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI – information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
5. UnitedHealthcare of New England - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
6. Warwick Cancer Control Task Force – information exchange, aligning activities, collaborating to educate on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
7. Bryant University Small Business Development Center – collaborating to educate on the Smoke-free Workplace Law – Professional Development Seminar offered at Northern RI Chamber Business Expo.
8. East Providence Substance Abuse Task Force – information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
9. Woonsocket Substance Abuse Task Force – information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
10. Channel One - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
11. Progreso Latino - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
12. RI Indian Council - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
13. Urban League of RI - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law and participating in planning employer events for “Not in Mama’s House” project.

14. International Institute - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law.
15. Rhode Island Cancer Council – information exchange – WWCRI distributed Cancer Council Fact Sheet and Resource List to WWCRI membership.
16. Cancer Council Task Force Summit 10/13/04 – information exchange, collaborating to educate employers on the Smoke-free Workplace Law. The WWCRI presented information on the law and the Well State Initiative.
17. RI Workplace Literacy Collaborative - information exchange
18. State of Rhode Island - Governor Carcieri and Mrs. Carcieri – Honorary Directors of the WWCRI. Plans to implement a RI State Worksite Wellness Initiative where state departments will proceed with developing wellness programs to qualify for “Well Workplace Awards”.
19. Leadership Rhode Island - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to promote WWCRI. An “Eye Opener” Breakfast Meeting will be held March 1, 2005 to present the Well Workplace process. Governor Carcieri will be present. 100 employers expected to attend. Information on the Smoke-free Workplace Law will be made available to all attendees.
20. DOH Tobacco Treatment Program - information exchange, sharing resources, aligning activities, collaborating to establish a procedure for conducting on-site tobacco treatment programs, participation on Workers Safety Act Implementation Committee.

“Well State” Designation for the State of RI

To date, 25 companies are nationally designated “Well Workplaces”, which brings the WWCRI to 26% of the “Well State” goal. Three additional companies have submitted Well Workplace applications.

Wellness University 10/20/04 - 17 employers attended.