What is a tobacco free resolution?

A tobacco free resolution is adopted by a community to end tobacco use at public places and events such as the community or elders hall.

What is the goal of a resolution?

The goal of a tobacco free resolution is to reduce community members' exposure to the harmful health effects of secondhand smoke. Change the norm of seeing tobacco everywhere. **Remember 90% of all cancers are tobacco related**.

What CAN a good tobacco free resolution offer to your community?

- Increase the quality of life, on a community level, by reducing health risks over time as well as lowering the death rate to tobacco related illnesses
- The less youth see tobacco the more likely they will be to never use tobacco.
- Reduce the health costs and loss of productivity to tobacco related illness
- Protect your elders and children from secondhand smoke exposure, ensuring the wellness and education of your people.

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.

2011 AFN CONVENTION

RESOLUTION _____

TITLE: STATEWIDE SMOKEFREE WORKPLACES TO PROTECT TRIBAL CITIZENS FROM THE DANGERS OF SECONDHAND SMOKE

WHEREAS, Alaska Native people have the highest rate of tobacco use in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and Alaska Native people suffer serious health consequences including heart disease and cancer; and

WHEREAS, Secondhand tobacco smoke exposure is another leading cause of preventable death, and causes disease in healthy nonsmokers, including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, It has been determined by the U.S. Surgeon General that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, air ventilation systems do not work, and that only completely smokefree environments can protect health; and

WHEREAS, A significant amount of secondhand smoke exposure for Alaska Native adults and children occurs in the workplace and even short exposures may result in serious adverse health effects and even death; and

WHEREAS, Smokefree workplaces have protect people from secondhand smoke, reduce tobacco use overall, support healthy lifestyles, model healthy behavior, and support quit attempts; and

WHEREAS, The health of our people is of upmost importance and Alaska Natives people have taken a lead in addressing health issues throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Smokefree workplaces will protect the health of our children, grandchildren, families, and community members; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Delegates to the 2011 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Inc., support statewide smokefree workplaces to protect Alaska Native people and others from the known dangers of secondhand smoke.

SUBMITTED BY:

COMMITTEE ACTION:

CONVENTION ACTION:

How to make change in your community

Starting at the beginning

Begin discussions with the community leaders and community members about creating a resolution to move forward with tobacco policy.

Create a written campaign plan out what the goal of the campaign is. Ask yourself, "What would we like to get out of this?"

Create your draft resolution and have it reviewed several times before you take the next step of presenting the resolution to your local government.

Decide with your group of leaders (coalition) what the deal breakers would be in your tobacco free ordinance. Make sure that all portions of the resolution are in support of the original goal to reduce the exposure to secondhand smoke.

Ensure that you have support from the community leaders, the public, law makers, health care providers, business owners and the tribes. Not all members are required to attend meetings, try to keep the meetings to the core members

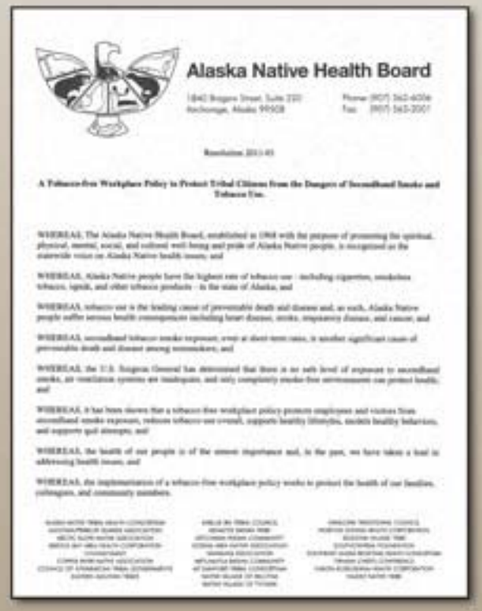
Make sure that the community is educated on tobacco health risks and ready to move forward with the tobacco resolution being proposed.

Define, with clarity, what the rules and regulations of your resolution will be. It is important to discourage and remove any deal-breakers. It is better to get nothing out of the deal than to compromise the health of your people.

REMEMBER: The goal is not to get a law passed, but to create an resolution that will protect the community as a whole! Do not compromise!!

Tobacco Free Resolutions:

- Will Clear definitions and examples
- Goals are clearly defined and laid out
- No compromises to the over all goal of the resolution
- Support from the majority of the community
- All workplaces are covered under the resolution, no place is left out
- Deal-breakers are not allowed to be entered into the policy. Do not allow certain types of businesses to be exempt from the resolution
- Health issues are clearly stated during the education process to ensure that everyone understands the health risks if there is no resolution put in places



Alaska Native Health Board

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Resolution 2011-01

A Tobacco-free Workplace Policy to Protect Tribal Citizens from the Dangers of Secondhand Smoke and Tobacco Use.

WHEREAS, The Alaska Native Health Board, established in 1968 with the purpose of promoting the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people, is recognized as the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Native people have the highest rate of tobacco use – including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, cigrok, and other tobacco products – in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and, as such, Alaska Native people suffer serious health consequences including heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, secondhand tobacco smoke exposure, even at short-term rates, is another significant cause of preventable death and disease among nonsmokers; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Surgeon General has determined that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke, air ventilation systems are inadequate, and only completely smoke-free environments can protect health; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown that a tobacco-free workplace policy protects employees and visitors from secondhand smoke exposure, reduces tobacco use overall, supports healthy lifestyles, models healthy behaviors, and supports quit attempts; and

WHEREAS, the health of our people is of the utmost importance and, in the past, we have taken a lead in addressing health issues; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a tobacco-free workplace policy works to protect the health of our families, colleagues, and community members.