

ACS CAN January Monthly Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Emily, Melissa, Dan, Jenny, Carole, Rebecca, Alice, Carol, Marisa, Deb C., Angel, & Tim

State Updates

The Governor released his budget on Wednesday, and there are some items of note for ACS CAN. As a reminder, [this is just the first step in a long process](#). The House will release their budget in March, and begin debate on it in April. The Senate will debate in May, with the hope of getting to the Governor and signed into law by July 1st. We'll be asking you to action each step of the way on our budget priorities over the next few months, so stay tuned!

- Tobacco Control Funding: **Massachusetts Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program's (MTCP) line was level funded at \$4,618,155!** This is good news because not only does it acknowledge that MTCP is vital in fighting the youth vaping epidemic, but it puts us in a strong position to argue for an increase in funding as the budget moves through the House and Senate.
- The Governor also set aside **additional funds to specifically fight e-cigarette/vaping** in his FY2021 budget. These funds would come from the Community Behavioral Health Trust Fund (CBHTF). You may remember that the CBHTF will receive 30% of revenue from the new tax on vaping products. The Governor set aside around \$3.96 million for this work, presumably to be used by MTCP, to accomplish the following:
 - \$500,000 for a multi-media vaping awareness campaign
 - \$2,100,000 for enforcement support for local boards of health and municipalities
 - \$380,000 to expand cessation support, including Quitline capacity and an enhanced SBIRT screening tool for schools
 - \$570,000 for youth programming, specifically expanding the reach of The 84 Youth Movement
 - \$410,000 for evaluation to inform decision-making in the public health response to the vaping epidemic
- The Prostate Cancer Research, Awareness, and Education line was flat funded at \$800,000
 - The prostate cancer research, awareness and education program focuses on men with African-American heritage, family history of the disease, and other men at high risk. By providing awareness and education programs more men will have the opportunity to make an informed decision with their healthcare provider about prostate cancer screening.
- The Pediatric Palliative Care Program was flat funded at \$4,816,053
 - The pediatric palliative care program provides families with services to ensure the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the child are being met while going through treatment.
- The Health Incentives Program (HIP) was funded at \$5 million, which is a \$1.5 million funding decrease over last year.
 - In Massachusetts, people who qualify for SNAP automatically qualify and are enrolled in HIP. HIP is a dollar for dollar match of the SNAP funds. For every dollar you spend at a HIP authorized farm or vendor on fresh fruits and vegetables, you receive a dollar. For more information visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/healthy-incentives-program-hip-for-clients>.

Federal Updates – Update: See attached Federal Priorities sheet

- Federal Appropriations:
 - The president's budget is expected to be released on February 10th.
 - ACS CAN and our partners sat down and decided on what this year's medical and cancer research funding ask should be. Hot off the presses, they are:
 - A \$3 billion increase to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget, bringing the total budget to \$44.7 billion
 - A \$500 million increase to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) budget, bringing the total budget to \$6.9 billion
 - **Update:** See attached Massachusetts Fact Sheet
- Tobacco: The Pallone Bill (**H.R.2339**), Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act of 2019, should come to the House floor in late February/early March. This bill would prohibit menthol cigarettes, all flavored e-cigarettes, most flavored cigars, and prohibit online sales of most tobacco products including e-cigarettes. ACS CAN supports this bill
 - **Update:** Melissa heard this morning that we'll be focusing some of our February Recess Efforts on this topic. More to come soon!
- CRC: No movement yet this year
- PCHETA: ACS CAN is continuing to work with Senate champions on PCHETA to try to get it included in workforce bills moving through Congress.
- Access to Care:
 - In TX vs the US, The Supreme Court decided not to immediately take up the case this week, leaving millions of Americans uncertain about their ability to keep or afford comprehensive healthcare coverage for months to come. You can read ACS CAN and our partners [full statement here](#).

Monthly Spotlight

- Massachusetts Lobby Day will be on March 18th from 10am to 2:30pm. We currently have 21 registered attendees, and another invite will go out next week. The day is a great way to introduce someone to advocacy and have a huge impact on cancer. Over 120 ACS CAN volunteers from around Massachusetts will descend on the Massachusetts State House and talk with their lawmakers about cancer related issues. Training and lunch is provided!
 - If you haven't registered, feel free to do so at www.fightcancer.org/2020malobbyday, and please invite your friends.
 - There is also a Facebook event now on the ACS CAN MA Facebook page that you can share!
- Ambassador Action Center is the hub of ACS CAN volunteer activity tracking! Not only is it a way to recognize you all for everything you do to help end cancer as we know it, but it's also a very important tool for ACS CAN staff. Staff here in Massachusetts as well as in DC use the information you put into the Action Center to help further build relationships with our lawmakers. Whether you run into your lawmaker one evening at a restaurant, or you send them an email via our easy action email system, it's vital that we know what connections you are all making. And I KNOW you are taking action. There is no way we would have passed the most comprehensive tobacco control legislation in the history of the United States just two months ago without you all taking action!
 - Currently, there are 101 actions that you all have entered, resulting in 1,324 points – all since September 1. And I know there are more!

- CD7 is in the lead in Massachusetts with the most points logged, with CD5 and CD 4 a close second and third. We'll be updating you monthly with the standings and look forward to seeing some friendly competition.
- Not sure what you can/should be recording? Here's some tips:
 - Any fundraising you do or memberships you get
 - Anyone you recruited to be a Legislative Ambassador
 - Any petitions you get signed
 - Anytime you post or share a social media post about ACS CAN on ANY social media platform
 - Anytime you have a conversation with your lawmaker or one of their staff
 - Anytime you submit (not get printed) a Letter to the Editor or Op-Ed
 - Anytime you send an email (even if it's through a link in an ACS CAN email) to your lawmaker or staff
- If you don't have access to the Action Center, and want it, please let Melissa or your ACT! Lead know and we'll get you hooked up!
- Challenge:
 - Figure out a process that works for you to enter your actions on a weekly basis
 - And, if you have a record, go back and enter any and all actions you have taken since Sept 1, 2019 by our Feb call

Volunteer Opportunities:

- February 1st 5:15pm to 9pm – the Worcester Railers are having a Hockey Fights Cancer night and have asked ACS and ACS CAN to have tables at the event. We are looking for 1 volunteer to join Dottie at the ACS CAN table to help educate attendees about ACS CAN and hopefully recruit volunteers. This volunteer will receive a free ticket to stay and watch the game.
 - A portion of ticket sales will go to ACS, so if you are looking for a fun family night, feel free to check out the attached flyer and buy tickets.
- February 27rd 6:30pm to 7:30pm: 1 (917) 727-7985,,,77840796#