



Housing Authority
of the City of El Paso

Improving Partnerships, Policy, & Practice

Maria Flores coordinated smoke free policy development/implementation efforts at HACEP

Kristen Hernandez coordinated data analysis/community outreach and provided technical assistance

Holly Mata led the survey/outreach team and collaborated with HACEP on the smoke free policy process

Mark Boldt is the Cessation Coordinator with the Tobacco Prevention & Control Branch of the Texas Department of State Health Services

Jana Renner is the program officer at the Paso del Norte Health Foundation for the tobacco control and alcohol prevention initiatives

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Our Experience

- Building on **existing partnership** between HACEP/UTEP/Paso del Norte Health Foundation
- Aligned with local **priorities**, HUD recommendations, HACEP mission, **health equity**
- Involved **youth** in policy advocacy; local tobacco control network **prioritizing policy expansion** (strengthening local ordinances, tobacco-free campuses, more counties/municipalities, more multi-unit housing)



MISSION
& VISION



HM

Implementation Barriers

- Equitable enforcement among property managers
- Length of time to address complaints
- “It’s my home, I can do what I want”
 - Misconception that smoking is a “right”
- Limited access or availability of resources
 - Cessation/ Healthcare/ Transportation



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Expanding policies to include Low-Income Housing Tax Credit & non-subsidized apartments

- Conducted interviews at two smoke-free communities to identify challenges and best practices
- Interviewed four property managers, four residents and five maintenance staff


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Feedback from Property Manager at Smoke-Free Elderly Community...

- Residents resisting change...some still smoking inside apartments
- “Elderly residents have a harder time adapting to change”
- Although residents signed a lease addendum agreeing to not smoke inside the building, they violate it.

MF




Feedback from Property Manager at Smoke-Free Elderly Community...




- Non-smoking residents insist smoke from one apartment travels to the next one
- “Enforcement is time consuming and currently eligibility certifications are a priority”
- Property management will be stricter in enforcing lease due to new management style that will be followed

MF




Feedback from Residents at Smoke-Free Communities...




- “I smell smoke coming through my vent from my neighbor”
- “It bothers me and I don’t understand why they are not evicted for not following lease”

MF




Feedback from Property Manager at Smoke-Free Multifamily Community...




- Property manager sees visible differences from a smoke-free community to a smoking one, for instance:
 - Smoking community is filthy and cigarette butts are found in the common grounds and inside
 - Smoke-free community is cleaner and prettier in the common grounds

MF





Feedback from Property Manager at Smoke-Free Multifamily Community...



- Property manager sees visible differences from a smoke-free community to a smoking one, for instance:
 - Smoking community walls and blinds inside apartments are yellow and stinky
 - Smoke-free community walls maintain their original color and free of smoke odors

MF

Feedback from Maintenance Staff at Smoke-Free Multifamily Community...

- Mentioned some apartments reek of smoke so assumption is that residents continue to smoke inside apartment
- During interview did not want to be recorded or provide their names

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Opportunities: Partner roles & Responsibilities

- Tobacco Control Coalitions/Networks can support our housing partners
 - Cessation resources
 - Celebrating healthy homes
 - Support training needs/Provide TA for enforcement and policy development as needed
- Community Advocates
 - Support partners throughout the policy process
 - Highlight successes and benefits of smoke-free environments
 - Media advocacy








KH & HM




Partnerships to support PHA's

- **Identify internal partners at PHAs**
 - Link tobacco education and cessation to community programs offered at PHAs
- **Collaborate with existing partners to offer multiple quit smoking opportunities**
 - DSHS regional offices
 - Community health centers
 - Mental health community centers
 - Women, Infants and Children Program
 - Public Housing Authorities that have smoke-free policies
- **Diversify group of people trained to refer to quitline**
 - More occupations/roles represented

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Questions?

Thank you for your interest in promoting smoke-free housing!

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