

Activities and accomplishments, July 2005 – June 2006

What a time it's been! In this period New Jersey GASP accomplished a number of successes with the completion of two major projects supporting smokefree indoor air legislation. The resolution project and the indoor air monitoring project contributed significantly to the advancement of state smokefree air legislation for smokefree indoor air in workplaces and public places. To help implement the law, we added a special 100-page section to our website, with most of the material up before the law went into effect.

We also worked closely with the sponsors of bills that made college dorms smokefree, and that prohibited the sale of tobacco to anyone under 19. Additionally, we've helped make New Jersey a leader in outdoor smokefree air ordinances. These changes will protect people from environmental tobacco smoke, encourage everyone, especially youth, to be smokefree, and reduce smoking. Here are itemized descriptions of our accomplishments and activities:

Track state laws. We tracked state laws and the progress of bills. The Smokefree College Residential Housing Law passed and was signed by Governor Codey on August 22, 2005. Because of all her assistance to the sponsoring legislators, NJ GASP attorney Blumenfeld was asked to speak at the signing, along with Governor Codey and Commissioner of Health Jacobs. The law covers both private and public institutions of higher education. The age of sale of tobacco bill, changing the age from 18 to 19, was passed and signed into law on January 15, 2006.

The biggest accomplishment was, of course, the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act. The resolution project showing demand for the law, and the air-monitoring project were significant factors in the passage of this law. We completed the project to measure indoor air for ETS in workplaces and public places, specifically restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, and casinos. New Jersey GASP staff, trained by Roswell Park Cancer Institute, conducted air monitoring in more than 50 locations. The indoor air testing results, from restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, and casinos, showed ETS pollution above EPA standards, and provided dramatic support for ETS controls. Then we organized and promoted a press conference, in the State House, to present our results. The event drew extraordinary media coverage by the print, radio, TV and cable outlets. Two days later, at the New Jersey League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City, our lobbyist told us our air testing was the number one topic of conversation and the Governor finally announced his support for the NJ SFAA. A copy of the full report is available on our website.

We tracked signed resolutions in the Local Authority Resolution Project in support of local authority and smoke-free legislation, created new systems to track population and legislative district, provided technical assistance and coordination, and repeatedly

encouraged entities to sign and colleagues to encourage signing. There are 441 signed resolutions, including resolutions signed by 212 municipal and county governing entities. The municipal governing bodies and/or municipal boards of health that signed represent 177 municipalities with a combined population of 2.8 million New Jerseyans. The full lists, including one sorted by legislative district, are on our website.

We continue to track the progress of proposed legislation to protect employees and patrons of casinos from tobacco smoke pollution. All laws are recorded, a copy retained in the NJ GASP legislation library, and placed on our website.

Track local laws. We tracked local laws; we obtained a copy for our library; and our staff, including our attorney, analyzed them; and we posted them on our website. During the grant period we added 11 ordinances, all passed during the grant period. Attorney Blumenfeld provided much information and assistance to the director of the Turtle Back Zoo and the Essex County Freeholders in the passage of the county resolution to prohibit tobacco use at the zoo. We published a new edition of *Local Laws on Tobacco in New Jersey* in March 2006.

New Jersey is now the nation's leader in outdoor smokefree ordinances.

During this grant year New Jersey municipalities passed 6 ordinances, and counties passed 2 laws. These laws protected people and the environment in parks, on beaches, recreational fields, and a zoo. One county established a 25 foot setback from all county-owned buildings. Of 815 such laws in the nation, 103 are here in New Jersey. New Jersey GASP not only tracks these ordinances, we actively encourage them via mailings, presentations, and consultations. Of the 8 outdoor ordinances passed this year, New Jersey GASP provided individual information for six directly and via our assistance to local colleagues. All municipal governing bodies and local boards of health had regular input from us.

Track smokefree restaurants and bars. We tracked smokefree restaurants by using information from our news-clipping service, several web sources, printed publications, colleagues, and our members. We verified and corrected all listings before entry into our database. Additionally, we investigated many potential reports, which turned out to be incorrect. During this grant period we added 284 restaurants and deleted 51. The smokefree dining information is maintained on our website. We issued individual directories upon requests for a printed version of select locations.

Produce other materials, as needed. We saw a need for the Resolution Project and continually updated all materials as needed. A special section was created on our website for tracking the resolution project. Attorney Blumenfeld created *Trends in Smokefree Gaming*, a two-inch binder consisting of studies on the economic effects of smokefree gaming, health studies, including a study done with casino workers in Las Vegas showing DNA damage, and news articles. The binder is available upon request. NJ GASP and Roswell Park Cancer Institute issued the *New Jersey Air Monitoring Study*.

Posters of charts showing the results from the study were used at the press conference, and both the study and charts were placed on the website.

Provide a minimum of 400 consultations. We provided 700 consultations. The majority of the inquiries came from citizens, many from colleagues and the media. We initiated some of the consultations. For instance, we contacted the attorney for the casino association, to inform him of support for smokefree air policies in casinos and the economic and health effects of strong legislation. That resulted in a personal meeting in Atlantic City with him and our lobbyist, our attorney, and me. Our attorney, Karen Blumenfeld provided him with a complete portfolio of timely information, including economic effects, health studies, polls, smokefree casino policies and laws in the U.S. and foreign countries.

Provide presentations, trainings, and media appearances. We provided 22 presentations. There were increased requests from the TV industry because of the SFAA. Presentations were given to colleagues, CATs, REBELS, local, county, and state legislators. We were even followed around for two days by a Polish TV reporter and photographer, so we have promoted the New Jersey SFAA internationally.

Maintain and update website. We maintained and updated our website, which attracted a total of 113,181 visits during the grant period, with 15,446 visits of more than one minute. That's 42 significant visits every day of the year or 8 every hour during business hours. We have other evidence of the usefulness of the website. In numerous news articles, NJ GASP is credited for information although we have had no direct contact with the reporter for that particular story.

A special section was created for the resolution project. Also, a significant section containing more than 100 pages was created for the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act. It contains a synopsis of the law, explanations for implementation, links to the Department of Health site, five sample signs, and background information.

Distribute materials by mail and email, grouped and individual. We provided information to hundreds of decision makers, media, businesses, and colleagues in ten grouped mailings. Our Legislators Information Service on Tobacco did 18 mailings to state legislators, continually informing them about ETS issues and about actions elsewhere. Throughout the period, we distributed materials in quantity, primarily to colleagues, for example, restaurant directories to health officers for food handlers' courses, brochures to CAT coordinators, etc. We also provided individual packets of information in response to requests for assistance with residential ETS problems, workplace problems, passage of ordinances, and other concerns. In 10 grouped mailings this year, to municipal governments, print media, state legislators, and colleagues, we continually encouraged decision makers to take action against tobacco.