

## **Activities and accomplishments, July 2006 through June 2007**

**It has been a very active time for legislation this year!** In this period New Jersey GASP accomplished a number of successes in support of smokefree air legislation. The indoor air-monitoring project contributed significantly to the advancement of state and local smokefree air legislation for smokefree air on gaming floors. To help implement the law, new material has been added to the smokefree gambling section on the NJ GASP website.

We also worked closely with the sponsor of the bill that prohibits smoking in motor vehicles when children are present. Additionally, we've helped make New Jersey a leader in outdoor smokefree air ordinances. These changes will protect people from ETS, encourage everyone, especially youth, to be smokefree, and reduce smoking.

The New Jersey Legislature passed an act that prohibits the sale of cigarettes in this state unless the cigarettes meet the fire safety performance standard set forth in the bill. The act shall take effect on June 1, 2008. Blumenfeld and staff provided research to the sponsors of the bill.

A State law was adopted by regulation by the Department of Human Services on December 19, 2005, and took effect on February 6, 2006. The regulations include that all resource family (foster care) homes be smokefree, vehicles that transport family children be smokefree, no smoking outdoors if a child is present, and prohibits smoking and the use of smokeless tobacco by children in placement. So, New Jersey children in foster care now have state legislation to protect them from ETS, and now have an environment that encourages them to be nonsmokers – that's measurable progress! Last year, Blumenfeld had been in contact with the Commissioner of Health to inquire about the procedure to accomplish this regulation. Blumenfeld has conducted extensive research on protecting children, especially in foster care, from secondhand smoke. She prepared a report used by the CTCP for a meeting with Dr. Jacobs.

Here are descriptions of specific activities:

**The New Jersey Smokefree Air Act:** The project to measure indoor air for ETS is ongoing. New Jersey GASP staff, trained by Roswell Park Cancer Institute, conducted air monitoring in restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, and casinos in Atlantic City after the passage of the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act. Results showed air pollution was reduced an average of 91% compared to testing in 2005. The average level of air pollution in casinos remained unchanged and well above EPA safe levels. Testing conducted during the Government shutdown in July in casinos showed the level of indoor air pollution to be very low as there was no smoking. The comments, responses, and rules were issued in May 2007. New Jersey GASP staff has reviewed the rules and placed a link on the NJ GASP website. Blumenfeld, Carlson, and staff continue to answer inquiries about the implementation of the act.

**Compile and update information on smokefree casinos.** NJ GASP conducted air monitoring in casinos in Atlantic City and Rhode Island. These casinos have smoking and non-smoking areas similar to the requirements in the Atlantic City ordinance. The air was tested in the smoking prohibited and in the smoking permitted areas on the gaming floors. The tests in

Atlantic City were conducted both before and during the shutdown of the casinos in July. The results were analyzed by Roswell Park Cancer Institute. The final report for Atlantic City was released at a press conference at the State House on November 9. Rhode Island results were released in February. Media coverage included TV, radio, daily and non-daily newspapers for both reports.

Major research on the economics of smokefree gaming and health studies is being conducted. For instance, smokefree gaming legislation and policies around the nation and the world are being gathered and charted. Contact information on casinos workers and volunteers is entered in NJ GASP files on an ongoing basis. Strategies are planned with the Smokefree Casinos of Atlantic County, Atlantic Prevention Resources, ACS, AHA, and other colleagues

Staff presented technical information to the Atlantic City council for the introduction of smokefree workplaces, including casino gaming areas. NJ GASP staff attended all hearings and meetings on the smokefree ordinance in Atlantic City during November, December, January, and February.

Attorney Blumenfeld attended a gaming conference in Las Vegas in November, in Washington, D. C. in early April, and in Atlantic City in late April. She has made contact with gaming management, colleagues, and gathered information on smokefree gaming. Blumenfeld presented on the economics of smokefree gaming at a conference in California and also in Las Vegas in June.

NJ GASP staff participated in monthly conference calls of the casino task force sponsored by American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation of California with colleagues in many states.

**Research and provide information on smokefree housing.** Information was gathered for smokefree housing on legislation, policies, and actions to be taken by tenants and landlords. Of the 90 inquirers this period, 45 packets of information were sent. Attorney Blumenfeld participated in a smokefree housing conference on practical and legal solutions. Blumenfeld provided technical assistance to Sen. Lautenberg's office on smokefree HUD housing. Jim Bergman, J.D., Smoke-Free Environments Law Project, Co-Director, Michigan, presented information on smokefree public and private multi-housing at the NJ GASP office in April. Staff learned about successful actions in other states that can be used in New Jersey.

**Provide consultations.** We provided 592 consultations. The majority of the inquiries came from media, because of both state and local legislation. Housing inquiries also were numerous. Smoke migrating and seeping into multi-housing units remains a difficult problem in tobacco control. We are making some progress. We have helped landlords declare their rental units smokefree. Individuals have been counseled and sent materials to help them solve their situations.

**Provide a minimum of 10 presentations, trainings, and media appearances.**

We provided 29 presentations given to colleagues, REBELS, local, county, and state legislators.

**Maintain and update website to provide the most current data.** We maintained and updated our website, which attracted a total of 93,648 visits during the grant period, with 11,680 visits of more than one minute. A major new section was created for smokefree gambling. It includes the facts about casinos, conditions in NJ casinos, health and safety studies, economics, legislation and litigation, public support, and other information pertinent to casinos. The NJ SFAA section was updated to include the new comments, responses, and rules published in May. The legislative section contains all new legislation this period.

**Research and produce materials, as needed.** We saw a need for air monitoring after the NJ SFAA went into effect. The report of the results, *New Jersey Air Monitoring Study*, was issued by NJ GASP and Roswell Park Cancer Institute in November. Air monitoring in casinos in Atlantic City and Rhode Island was conducted, with reports released in February 2007. 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. Blumenfeld and Carlson created “Smokefree Gaming, the Facts” on the economic effects of smokefree gaming, health studies, and legislation.

Blumenfeld conducted extensive research on protecting children from secondhand smoke. She prepared a report used by the CTCP for a meeting with Dr. Jacobs. The regulations to protect children in foster care went into effect February 2006.

“Protecting Children from Secondhand Smoke in Vehicles” was created by Blumenfeld and Carlson. The report includes jurisdictions, other legislation, health studies, and support for smokefree vehicles when children are present.

**Distribute materials by mailings, grouped and individual.** We provided information to hundreds of decision makers, businesses, and colleagues in 13 grouped mailings. We also provided individual packets of information in response to requests for assistance with residential ETS problems, workplace implementation of the smokefree law, passage of ordinances, and other concerns.

**Track local and state laws.** We tracked state laws and the progress of bills. 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. The Senate passed a bill prohibiting smoking in motor vehicles with a child present. Blumenfeld and staff provided information to Senator Lesniak, the sponsor of the bill with research on other counties and states that have passed similar legislation. Blumenfeld and Carlson have researched and written a report on protecting children against smoke while riding in motor vehicles.

**New Jersey has about 10% of all outdoor smokefree ordinances in the nation.** During this grant year New Jersey municipalities passed 12 ordinances. Ten of these laws protect people and the environment outdoors in parks, recreational fields, swimming pools, and in open-air arenas. Of 1,067 outdoor laws in the nation, 112 are here in New Jersey. New Jersey GASP not only tracks these ordinances, we actively encourage them via mailings, presentations, and consultations. New Jersey GASP provides individual information directly and via our assistance to local colleagues.