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New Jersey GASP activities and accomplishments, July 2007 – June 2008

A. Compile and update information on smokefree casinos

NJ GASP staff and volunteers have conducted air monitoring in all casinos. The air was tested in the smoking prohibited areas and in the smoking permitted areas on the gaming. These tests 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 was released at a press conference at the State House on November 9. Media coverage included TV, radio, daily and non-daily newspapers.

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. New information is added on an ongoing basis to our website in the Gambling section. 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. Meetings by New Jersey GASP staff were held with casino management, the Casino Control Commissioner and the Casino Association President for the presentation of information on smokefree gaming. 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 and December 2007.

Attorney Blumenfeld attended the annual G2E gaming conference in Las Vegas in November 2007, and made contact with colleagues and gathered information on smokefree gaming. NJ GASP staff participates in monthly conference calls of the casino task force sponsored by American Nonsmokers Rights Foundation of California with colleagues in many states.

Blumenfeld provided talking points on problems with the current Atlantic City ordinance, and technical assistance on an amendment to make casinos smokefree except for enclosed smoking lounges on the gaming floor.

New information was added to our website in the Action Alert and the Gambling sections. Strategies were planned with the Smokefree Casinos Coalition of Atlantic County, Atlantic Prevention Resources, ACS, AHA, and other colleagues. Blumenfeld is in contact with colleagues and casino management in support of smokefree casinos. Blumenfeld provided technical assistance to Councilman Bruce Ward on an amendment to make casino gaming floors smokefree, and allow enclosed non-staffed smoking lounges on the gaming floor. Blumenfeld met with the representatives from UAW, the casino dealers' union, in New Jersey, as well as in Connecticut and Pennsylvania. The Atlantic City ordinance passed unanimously on April 23 and Mayor Evans signed the ordinance on April 30. Blumenfeld presented at the press conference for the signing of

the ordinance amendment, on April 30. She wrote and organized distribution of proclamations of appreciation from the Atlantic City Council and Mayor Evans to advocates and casino workers. NJ GASP board member and staff attended all meetings, press events, and the signing in Atlantic City. The ordinance has been placed on the NJ GASP website with updated information on the history and passage of the ordinance.

Blumenfeld contacted Shore Memorial Cancer Center about participating with Cornell Weill Medical College on FAMRI studies for lung cancer screenings and biomarker testing for secondhand smoke in casino workers.

Strategy is being planned for the implementation of the Atlantic City ordinance for smokefree casino floors.

B. Research and provide information on smokefree housing

Information on smokefree housing is gathered on an ongoing basis, including surveys for multi-housing, policies, tenant leases, and legislation in New Jersey and other states. Staff researches surveys for multi-housing, policies, tenant leases, and legislation in New Jersey and other states. This information is used to update the materials we send to inquirers including residents, landlords, management corporations, and condo associations. There were 110 inquiries this year. Information was given by phone, fax, email, and 42 informational packets sent by mail. Contacts were made and individual informational packets were also sent to health officers, inspectors, and health educators.

Attorney Blumenfeld participated in a conference in Ann Arbor on smokefree housing, sharing and gathering information on practical and legal solutions. NJ GASP staff participated in the Ancillary Training on Smokefree Housing at the National Conference on Tobacco or Health in Minnesota.

C. Provide a minimum of 400 consultations

There were more than 500 consults this year. Smokefree casino floors generated the majority of the consults. There were many media interviews because of the Atlantic City ordinance amendment for smokefree casino floors. The majority of the other consults were about smoke seepage in multi-unit housing.

D. Provide a minimum of 10 educational presentations/trainings

Thirty-one presentations were given this year. Blumenfeld presented two-one hour presentations on smokefree gaming at the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States Winter conference. Blumenfeld also presented in Pennsylvania about smokefree workplaces, especially casinos. Blumenfeld gave 17 presentations (three were lobbying). The topics were primarily on smokefree casinos, smokefree cars with minors, smokefree foster homes, and secondhand smoke seepage in multi-unit housing. She presented again in June to the Committee on Casinos at the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States conference. Blumenfeld organized 12 tobacco control advocates from across the country to testify and or attend, and collected more than 40 letters of support. Blumenfeld provided technical assistance to Councilman Gennaro and presented at the press conference in New York City on the introduction of the ordinance to ban smoking in cars with minors.

E. Maintain and update website to provide the most current data

The New Jersey GASP website continues to receive many visits. During this year there were a total of more than 78,000 visitors, close to 300 per day, more than 10,000 of one minute, with 29 per day staying more than one minute. The Action Alert section was updated numerous times as more information became available about the Atlantic City ordinance for smokefree casinos and budget issues for the CTCP. The sections on smokefree casinos and legislation for state and local laws have been updated. All updates of current documents, including “Jurisdictions with legislation requiring smokefree gaming” and “Protecting children from secondhand smoke in vehicles” have been placed on the website. The new section on smokefree residences is being planned, designed, researched and drafted.

F. Research and produce materials as needed

Attorney Blumenfeld has conducted extensive research on protecting children, especially in vehicles, from secondhand smoke. Blumenfeld has created separate conference presentations and research papers for smokefree gaming, protecting children from secondhand smoke in vehicles, smokefree foster homes, and smokefree housing. Staff is researching and compiling information to be used to support smokefree casinos and residences, for placement on our website.

Blumenfeld has planned strategy for smokefree gaming for the unions, casino workers, and colleagues. She also has been coordinating with Cornell Weill Medical College on FAMRI studies for lung cancer CAT-scan screenings and biomarker testing for secondhand smoke in Atlantic City and Connecticut casino workers.

Blumenfeld drafted a resolution, which was accepted by the President of the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States, to support smokefree casino initiatives; coordinated a campaign with national tobacco control advocates, and garnered more than thirty letters of support for the resolution, which was presented at the NCLGS meeting in January 2008. The resolution to support smokefree casino initiatives was presented to the Committee on Casinos of the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States in June 2008. She organized advocates to testify and attend the conference in June 2008, and also gathered more letters of support for the resolution.

Blumenfeld provided questions to Steve Aduato’s live hour-long call-in tv show, Corzine on the Line. Questions were on the smokefree casinos bill and smokefree cars with minors bill.

Blumenfeld authored two articles for the *Gaming Industry Observer*, May 2008 edition, on marketing smokefree casinos, published July 16, 2007 and May 12, 2008.

G. Distribute materials by mailings, grouped and individual

A mailing was sent to New Jersey GASP members about accomplishments and emerging issues. The emerging issues are 100% smokefree casinos; protecting children from smoke in vehicles; protecting resource family children from secondhand smoke; information on smokefree housing; the enforcement of the New Jersey Smoke-

Free Air Act; and the enactment of and implementation of local legislation; increasing the CTCP budget through increased cigarette licensing fees, and increased tobacco taxes.

PoliticsNJ.com issues a “power list” that names the 100 most politically influential people in the state and former Executive Director, Regina Carlson, was named #70 in 2007, one placement above the tobacco lobbyist.

Two mailings were made to New Jersey legislators: an article from the *New York Times* “Study Shows Smoking Ban Cuts Heart Attacks,” and the full legislature and colleagues were sent the results of the New Jersey voter poll supporting smokefree casinos.

Information was sent to individual inquirers about tobacco smoke seepage in multi-unit housing, information on the enforcement of the New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act, and the passage and implementation of local legislation.

H. Track State and local laws

Two bills passed the State Legislature: S625/A2308 Permits smoking ban on grounds of State psychiatric hospitals and other human services facilities if smoking cessation program is offered, approved April 7, 2008, effective three months after enactment. S613/A1614 bans certain flavored cigarettes (except menthol and clove), passed both houses, awaits the Governor’s signature, effective 60 days after enactment.

Twelve ordinances were passed or discovered this year. A log for information on the legislative contacts contains details on State laws and the ordinance provisions. Staff consulted with more than 25 municipalities, giving technical assistance and support. The report, *NJ Local Laws on Tobacco*, lists the ordinances entered in the NJ GASP library, database and is found on the website. The ordinances banned the use of tobacco outdoors in recreation areas, athletic fields, playgrounds, and parks.

I. Maintain a database of tobacco-control colleagues in New Jersey

All contact information was verified and new colleagues entered. There are more than 300 colleagues, including DHSS staff, community partners, youth coordinators, NJ Prevention Network, NJ Breathes, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, other grantees and health officers.