

# **TOBACCO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT FUND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the 2022 Interim**

**December 19, 2022**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The 7th meeting of the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee was held on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 1:00 PM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Myron Dossett, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Myron Dossett, Co-Chair; Senators Dennis Parrett and Robin L. Webb; Representatives George Brown Jr., Brandon Reed, and Rachel Roberts.

Guests: Bill McCloskey, Deputy Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy (KOAP); Brian Lacefield, Executive Director, KOAP; Jason Chesney, M.D., Ph.D., Director, University of Louisville James Graham Brown Cancer Center; and B. Mark Evers, M.D., Director, University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center.

LRC Staff: Stefan Kasacavage, Hillary Abbott, Kelly Ludwig, and Rachel Hartley.

The minutes from the meeting of November 10, 2022, were approved by voice vote.

Representative Dossett acknowledged Senator Parrett's last committee meeting as a member of the General Assembly. Senator Parrett stated appreciation for all his colleagues and that he was proud to have served his constituents.

### **Utilization of Tobacco Settlement Funds for Cancer Research**

B. Mark Evers, M.D., stated the mission of the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center (MCC) is to reduce cancer mortality through research, treatment, education, and community engagement. Kentucky ranks first in cancer mortality and cancer incidence.

MCC was awarded an initial designation by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in 2013. MCC applied for comprehensive status on October 3, 2022, which is the highest designation by the NCI.

MCC directly or indirectly cared for approximately 47 percent of all new cancer cases in Kentucky. There are 19 MCC affiliate sites throughout the state. Patients were

from all 120 counties in Kentucky. Individuals from 98 different counties in Kentucky are enrolled in clinical trials.

Kentucky's lung cancer screening rate is second in the country. There has been a decrease in the rate of late-stage lung cancer.

Kentucky's colorectal cancer screening rate is 17<sup>th</sup> in the country. The mortality rate has decreased 34 percent and the incident rate has decreased 30 percent since 2000.

There are several programs for cervical cancer prevention. Almost all cervical cancers are caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV). MCC has increased cervical cancer screenings and vaccinations for HPV.

The opioid epidemic has contributed to an increase in the hepatitis C virus. Kentucky has the fifth highest rate of new infections in the country. Through a collaboration with NCI, National Institutes of Health, and Gilead Sciences there is a program to provide free medication.

MCC has assisted Martin County with concerns over safe drinking water. There were approximately 300 million gallons of coal slurry spilled into their water supply.

Education attainment in Appalachian Kentucky is much lower than the rest of the country. Taking ACTION (Appalachian Career Training in Oncology) is a program that offers the opportunity to gain cancer research, clinical, outreach, and education experiences to Appalachian Kentucky high school students and undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Kentucky.

The Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement has provided critical funding for cancer screenings, new recruitment and retention of cancer investigators, pilot funding for new cancer research projects, and funding for new clinical trials.

Jason Chesney, M.D., Ph.D., stated the University of Louisville James Graham Brown Cancer Center (BCC) receives \$3.4 million annually from the Master Tobacco Settlement Agreement. The funding supports clinical trialists, research staff, drug development programs, and innovative cancer screening programs. There has been an increase in cancer incidence; however, mortality rates have decreased.

The Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes Program is a complex cellular immunotherapy, which was only available on the east and west coasts until BCC opened human trials in 2016. Once Food and Drug Administration-approved, BCC will be one of only ten sites in the world that is certified to offer the therapy.

Many common cancers can be detected with proven screening technologies, but there is low participation. BCC is working to increase cancer screening rates and to develop less invasive approaches to detect cancer.

Dr. Chesney spoke briefly about Dr. Jun Yan and his research within the Division of Immunotherapy.

In response to Representative Roberts, Dr. Chesney stated female cancer incidence rates are increasing due to better female participation in cancer screenings resulting in earlier detection, and the fact that we have a growing aging population.

### **Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy Report**

Brian Lacefield stated KOAP has launched a new grant program to assist veterinarians who want to expand into a large animal practice, buy into an existing large animal practice, or buy equipment specific to large animal practice.

Mr. Lacefield stated that an agricultural economist at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture has projected \$8 billion in agriculture receipts in 2022. Agriculture receipts are the revenue received by farmers for their crops and livestock. Agriculture in Kentucky has diversified beyond producing tobacco. Tobacco is less than 3 percent of the total receipts.

Bill McCloskey described the Agricultural Development Board's projects under the program. Mr. McCloskey highlighted programs including the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP), Next Generation Farmer, Shared-Use Equipment Program, and the Youth Agriculture Incentives Program.

The projects discussed included:

- The Kentucky Horticulture Council was approved for \$1,848,395 in state funds to expand technical assistance, education, research, and market analysis for Kentucky's horticulture industry.
- Hampton Premier Meats was approved for \$3,750 in state funds for consultation fees for a Global Food Safety Initiative audit.
- The Kentucky State Beekeepers Association was approved for \$106,000 in state and county funds to support Kentucky beekeepers.
- The Kentucky Department of Agriculture was approved for \$2,876,000 in state funds to fund the Kentucky Proud Program.
- Marion County Public Schools was approved for \$8,592 in Marion County funds to update the greenhouse at Marion County High School.

In response to Senator Parrett, Mr. McCloskey stated the previous owner of Hampton Premier Meats was Ernie Hampton.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.