



# Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** January 24, 2012

**Prepared By/Phone Number:** David A. Salazar 854-4107

**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Sherri E. Fleming,  
County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

## **AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the Proposed Amendments to Chapter 57 (Travis County Smoking Policy) of the Travis County Code.

## **BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:**

Travis County Commissioners Court adopted the current Smoking Policy on October 21, 1986, to be effective January 1, 1987. In November of 2010, the Court approved the Interlocal with the City of Austin to receive funding through a grant from the Center for Disease Control to improve the health of government employees and the general public through cessation of the use of tobacco products. Even before implementation of the grant, the Travis County Wellness Clinic has provided tobacco cessation counseling and treatment and has, since, undergone a public information campaign to educate staff and the public about the hazardous nature of using tobacco products. The grant also suggests that the grantees consider the implementation of Tobacco Free Workplace policies. Conducting a public hearing to receive comments will enable the Court to consider feedback from all segments of the County workforce and open the forum for feedback from Travis County residents as well, prior to making decisions on any proposed policy changes.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Staff requests continued Court discussion and direction regarding the proposed amended changes to Chapter 57 of the Travis County Code (Travis County Smoking Policy) prior to making it available to Travis County employees and residents for a public hearing to receive comment from staff and the public regarding any proposed changes.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, [Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us) by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

## **ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

On November 16, 2010, the Court approved an Interlocal Agreement to participate in a grant and receive funding through the City of Austin from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to help reduce tobacco use prevalence and exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke under the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) initiative.

Travis County's Health and Human Service and Veterans' Service (HHS/VS) Department, in collaboration with the Travis County's Wellness Clinic, was charged with the implementation of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) initiative, whose objectives are to:

- 1) protect the well-being of Travis County employees, their families and the community by reducing tobacco use prevalence and exposure to second-hand smoke; and
- 2) explore the implementation of a Tobacco Free Workplace policy at all Travis County properties, and to provide resources for employees who want to stop using tobacco products.

The Interlocal with the City of Austin for funding of this initiative, in the amount of \$200,000, is set to expire on February 29, 2012.

## **FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Approving this request will not increase the County Budget.

## **REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

Mary Etta Gerhardt

*Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) Grant*

# **Tobacco-Free Worksite Policy Recommendation for Travis County**

Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

and

Travis County Health and Wellness Clinic

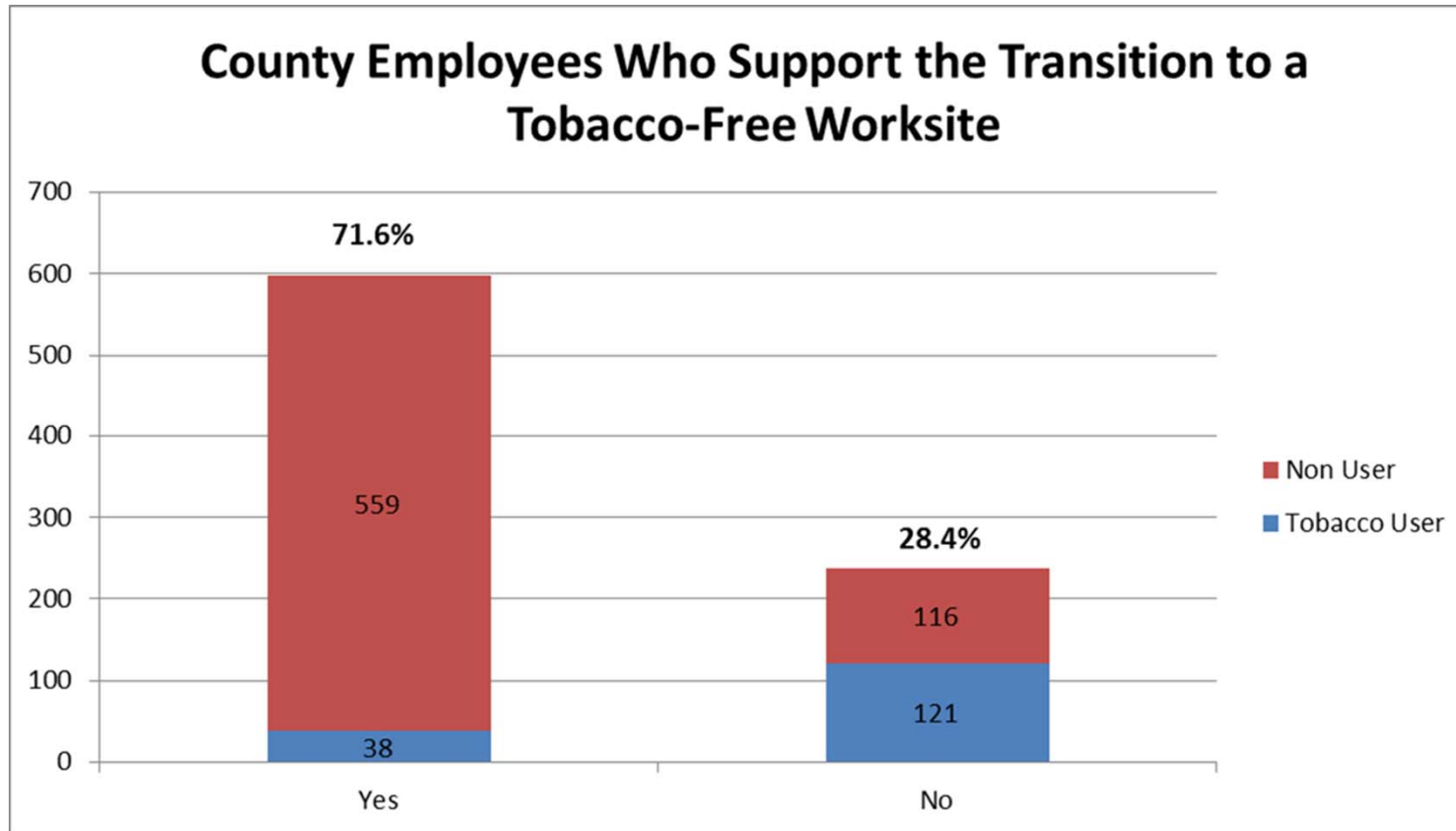


# Background Information

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) 2009
- City of Austin awarded a total of \$7,473,150 for Tobacco Cessation programs
  - Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) focus on: Policy, Systems, and Environmental Changes
- Interlocal Agreement between Travis County Health and Human Services/Veterans Service and the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department
  - Approved by Travis County Commissioners Court – November 16, 2010
  - \$200,000
  - Term of agreement ends February 29, 2012



# Survey Results



Source: Travis County Employee Survey (May 2011)

# Free Resources

- **Employee Wellness Clinic**
  - If insured through Travis County can obtain nicotine replacement therapy as well as participate in smoking cessation group classes
- **Texas Quitline**
  - 1-877-YES-QUIT (937-7848)
- **Seton**
  - Group classes – 6 weeks
  - 512-324-2762
  - Available at least until March 2013



- **For more information:**  
[www.livetobaccofreetraviscounty.org](http://www.livetobaccofreetraviscounty.org)

# Current Travis County Smoking Policy

- Adopted October 21, 1986
- No smoking in County buildings or County vehicles
- *Note:* Austin's SIPPPO ordinance applies to Travis County buildings inside city limits, but does not apply to County buildings in the unincorporated areas.

# Proposed Policy

- **Tobacco use is not permitted by anyone at any time on Travis County property. Includes employees, visitors, contractors, vendors, volunteers and interns.**
  - Indoor/outdoor spaces
  - Parking lots, garages, & driveways
  - Vehicles owned/leased by Travis County
  - Includes personal vehicles on property
- Appropriate signage will be posted
- No littering
- Self-enforced and encouraged by employees
- Proposed implementation date April 2, 2012



# Frequently Asked Questions

- **Where will smokers smoke?**
  - Designated smoking areas are not encouraged by the policy since the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke are evident.
- **How will the policy be enforced?**
  - In an effort to promote health, we recommend no punitive action associated with this policy. However, employees are ethically obligated to comply with policies that are part of Travis County's Code.
- **Will elected officials have to comply?**
  - This is a facilities policy that affects Travis County owned properties. Much like the SIPPO Ordinance already in effect for public buildings in Austin city limits, the proposed policy will affect the property regardless of who uses the building as long as it is Travis County property.

# Who is Tobacco-Free?

- ACTIVE Life Inc.
- African American Men & Boys Harvest Foundation
- Austin Community College
- Austin Recovery
- Austin Volunteer Health Clinic
- Austin/Travis County HHSD
- Austin/Travis County Integral Care
- Capital Metro
- Central Health/ CommUnityCare
- Huston-Tillotson University
- Mexican Consulate
- People's Community Clinic
- Seton Family of Hospitals
- St. David's Healthcare

# Contact Information

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