



## Feedback from the Field

On September 2, 2011, the Tobacco Control Legal Consortium surveyed 217 people to whom we had provided legal technical assistance from July 2010 through July 2011. Ninety-one people responded to this evaluation survey. Of those respondents, 94.5 percent found the Consortium's legal technical assistance very helpful or helpful. Ninety-seven percent of all respondents had an overall level of satisfaction with the Consortium that they described as "excellent" (75.3 percent); "very good" (15.7 percent); or "good" (5.6 percent).

Many respondents included feedback about the Consortium's legal technical assistance. Below are a few representative comments:

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*"The Consortium's support was **critical and extraordinarily helpful** in the development of the policy change language for the Rhode Island/City of Providence CPPW effort. For each of the four major policy changes, they provided options, analysis, cross-state examples of policies implemented and background materials at the policy development stage. In many instances, they provided base model language and then extensive commentary and analysis once the Solicitor drafted the policy change language. In multiple instances, they gave additional and timely legal insight and invaluable final recommendations at the final editing stage.*

*"The lawyers, especially Dave Schaibley, have a **depth and breadth of experience** and a **remarkable legal insight** that dramatically strengthened the policy development. He and the other lawyers were also **extraordinarily responsive** to our many requests for help. The RI CPPW project would not have made any of the deep inroads in tobacco prevention policy without them."*

Laura Oliven, Interim Director and Policy Consultant  
Mayor's Substance Abuse Prevention Council, Rhode Island

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*“The Consortium is an essential and deeply valued and respected component of the technical support we provide the states. The attorneys always provide an outstanding level of technical assistance and are incredibly responsive and fastidious in their research and support. Without the Consortium, we would not be passing effective public health laws, preventing the repeal of laws, or able to submit strong supportive amicus briefs when these laws are challenged in court.”*

Carter Steger, Senior Director  
State and Local Campaigns  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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*“Responses from the Consortium staff are always helpful and their assistance with crafting language to avoid the opportunity for loopholes is especially helpful. . . . Obtaining legal TA from attorneys familiar with tobacco law is often difficult for local or state coalitions. Thanks to the Legal Consortium, they continue to have access to this valuable resource.”*

Annie Tegen, Development Director  
Americans for Nonsmokers Rights

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*“You guys are great! [Legal technical assistance in advancing public health policy is] totally important - it is GREAT have legal expertise available! . . . .*

Carolyn Dresler, Medical Director  
Arkansas Department of Health

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*“Legal technical assistance in advancing public health is “critical to defending legislative gains, at state and local level in particular. . . . ACS and ACS CAN have used your technical legal assistance in many ways. In my area, we have particularly used your help with amicus briefs. Your expertise and time sensitivity have always been excellent and it is a true pleasure working with you all.”*

Mary Rouvelas, Senior Counsel  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

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“Public health is about public policy, but very few public health professionals know policy. . . . [The Consortium’s r]esponses were very helpful because they provided information to leverage against opposing viewpoints. Yes, this information had a **positive impact on public policy.**”

Jeanne Prom, Executive Director  
BreatheND

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*“The Consortium's responses are always helpful and provide insight and detail needed by advocates and/or policymakers. The **response time is amazingly quick**, and this timeliness really helps when communities won't let go of their drafts or share their issues until the last minute. . . . Legal technical assistance is crucial to advancing public health policy. The issues are very complex and specialized, so **we really need the legal consultation the Consortium provides.**”*

Carol Riker, Associate Professor  
Provost's Distinguished Service Professor  
College of Nursing, University of Kentucky

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*“The TCLC (Consortium) has been **very helpful to Rhode Island** especially during the last legislative session. We had no access to legal counsel and TCLC stepped in and provided timely assistance even though we were unable to get the scope of services paid for. RI is very interested in being in the forefront of tobacco control policy change initiatives. TCLC has been **available to us every step of the way**. It was only with TCLC's help that we were able to move forward with our legislative agenda. Especially given that we have no access to legal assistance.*

*“The RI Tobacco Control Network has also benefitted from the TCLC's work. They have helped us frame the issues, provide options for us to review, and provided answers to all of our questions - and there were lots, and lots. **We can't say enough about the staff and their efforts. Fantastic! Thank you!!!**”*

Geri Guardino, Policy Analyst  
Tobacco Control Program  
Rhode Island Department of Health

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*“I have accessed expertise from the Consortium on a couple of tobacco issues and each time the response that I received helped clarify the situation, options that were available and helped us gain insight into what the risks were of various next steps. It is an*

*invaluable resource for our state and has had impact on public policy. . . . It is an **invaluable service**. We have very limited access to legal technical assistance so the services of the Consortium have been a **tremendous resource**. The staff has even been **proactive in following up** on situations to see how they turned out. . . . The consortium has always been on top of the potential needs of the tobacco field.”*

Jeff Soukup, Public Health Program Manager  
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

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*“[The Consortium’s assistance was **studied and precise, yet flexible** to the unique economic and political environments in our state. All interactions were of **high caliber, efficient, and clear**.”*

Wayne Tormala, Bureau Chief  
Arizona Department of Health Services

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*“The Consortium's responses to any of my questions and concerns have always been **thorough and timely**. . . . I particularly appreciate the insight from the members of the Consortium on legal strategies occurring across the country that will assist efforts in my state.”*

Wendy Morrison, J.D., Director of Public Policy  
American Lung Association in Colorado

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*“Many public health policymakers and advocates are discouraged by current negative attitudes about the role of government and law in promoting and protecting public health. It is **crucial to have access to knowledgeable individuals** who can help brainstorm on strategies to address a public health problem that do not involve state legislatures. . . .*

*“Maggie [Mahoney of the Consortium] assisted me in understanding potential strategies for the family of an asthmatic child in a multi-unit building who was suffering because of smokers in a nearby unit. This helped me to answer a request for assistance from an individual in one of the states our region serves (Public Health Law Network). Maggie provided me with her contact info that I forwarded to the requester in case she had questions or would like further assistance. Maggie also involved our summer legal intern (who is interested in environmental law) in work related to cigarette butts.”*

Denise Chrysler, J.D.  
Director, Mid-States Region of the Public Health Law Network  
School of Public Health at University of Michigan

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*“The Consortium was able to assist in drafting of measures for possible legislation to be introduced as well as an analysis of relevant law in order to pre-empt challenges raised by lawmakers when the legislation was being proposed. . . . The Consortium staff attorneys I worked with provided **extremely efficient and expert support**. Whether it was Maggie helping to locate court opinions, David or Warren working with our staff locally to develop tools to share with lawmakers and the broader public in understanding tobacco-related policies and/or legislation, the materials and dialogue were helpful. . . .*

*“Having the Consortium as a resource is extremely invaluable. **No one has the focus and depth of knowledge that the Consortium does in this arena of law**. The materials summarizing the broad issues coupled with the tailored assistance for smaller jurisdictions provide for a stronger arsenal when working to pass good legislation or ward off bad legislation and working to create better tobacco control policies in our state and counties.”*

Trisha Nakamura, Policy and Advocacy Director  
Coalition for a Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

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*“The Consortium (David Schaibley) sent a clearly written email and letter which summarized comments on a draft smoke free ordinance which the Bismarck Tobacco Free Coalition was considering to be placed on the Bismarck City Commission agenda. A phone call to discuss this also took place. This was a **great opportunity for us to clearly understand all of the legal ramifications** of various ordinance language and experienced rationale for why such language is necessary. . . . [Legal technical assistance] is extremely important when working with health policy. The experience which the Consortium has from working across the nation on policy and **seeing the potential problems that can develop with a poorly written ordinance or law is invaluable.**”*

Pat McGeary, Coordinator  
Tobacco Prevention and Control Program  
Bismarck Burleigh Public Health, North Dakota