



*State of North Carolina*  
*Office of the Lieutenant Governor*

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Contact: Derek Chernow  
919-733-0098

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## **HEALTH TRUST COMMISSION ADDRESSES TOBACCO USE**

### **Health Trust Examines Teen Smoking Cessation and Prevention Programs**

RALEIGH – The Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission met today in a meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue. The agenda was focused on teen smoking cessation and prevention programs in North Carolina. An overview of the 2010 Vision Plan, North Carolina’s comprehensive plan to prevent and reduce the health effects of tobacco use, was presented to the Commission.

In addition, the Health Trust Commission heard from a panel of leading smoking prevention advocates from around North Carolina working on both local and statewide initiatives to decrease the use of tobacco. The state has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest rate of adult tobacco use in the nation.

“One of the Commission’s three key focus areas is teen smoking cessation and prevention. This meeting was an excellent means for the Commission to get a first-hand look at positive programs that are working in North Carolina and the amount of resources being devoted to this important health care issue,” said Perdue.

Over 70% of teen smokers say they want to quit. It was also found that programs targeting merchant education and enforcement of existing laws could reduce the sale of tobacco products to minors. “The Commission has begun examining programs that are both effective and cost-effective in reducing and preventing teen smoking. While much of our increased life expectancy is due to improvements in medicine, much more of the increase is due to better preventative measures,” added Perdue.

The Commission is comprised of 18 individuals appointed to four-year terms. The members represent a wide background of health care experience throughout North Carolina.

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