

# LA CROSSE AREA HEALTH INITIATIVE

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the La Crosse Area Health Initiative is to enhance the wellbeing of our population by working collaboratively with the community to conduct and evaluate educational, informational and service efforts specifically related to tobacco prevention, cessation and environmental tobacco smoke.

### Bylaws

#### **I. Membership**

Membership shall consist of organizations, agencies, associations and individuals that have an active interest in and commitment to promoting health and reducing disease in the Coulee Region. Several members may represent each organization on the La Crosse Area Health Initiative. In decision making situations generally the Coalition will follow the wishes of the majority, however in situations where this policy does not allow proper representation (specifically situations involving the budget, leadership and by-laws), the chair may call for a vote where by, only one representative per organization will have voting privileges. Each representative organization shall designate a voting member and, in his/her absence, designate an alternate representative to attend meetings of LAHI and vote in his/her place.

#### **II. Invited Consultants**

Individuals and/or representative of affiliate organizations, agencies and associations with an active interest in health promotion/disease reduction (tobacco control) may serve as invited consultants to the coalition. Invited consultants will act as resource to the coalition without voting privileges.

#### **III. Officers**

Officers shall include a Chairperson/Co-Chairpersons and a Vice-Chairperson. They shall be elected from the voting members by a majority vote at the regular December meeting. Officers shall serve a term of one-two years, beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, without limit as to succession.

#### **IV. Committees**

The Chairperson/Co-Chairpersons may recommend committees as needed to further the purposes of the coalition. Members of such committees need not be members of the Committee of the Whole, except that each committee shall include at least one member appointed from the Committee of the Whole by the Chairperson/Co-Chairpersons.

**V. Vacancies**

Vacancies among the officers shall be filled by nomination and majority vote. Those filling vacancies shall serve the remainder of the term of the previous officeholder.

**VI. Meetings**

Regular meetings of the coalition shall be held monthly at sites rotating among representative organizations. One-half of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting of the coalition. Membership shall be counted in establishing a quorum. The Vice-Chairperson will conduct meetings in the absence of the Chairperson. A majority of the members present is needed to approve action items. In voting situations related to budget, leadership and the by-laws the quorum (one-half of the voting delegates) shall be needed to approve action items. All meetings will be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rule of Order (newly revised 1990 edition)*.

**VII. Financial Operation**

The coalition may accept financial support in the form of gifts, grants, donations, contracts and in-kind contributions.

**VIII. Ratification and Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of a quorum present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the coalition, provided the proposed amendments have been distributed to the full membership at least 30 days prior to that meeting.