

**CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE**

Tobacco-Free Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Date: March 25, 2024

Time: 9:30 am- 11:00am



TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members Present	<p>Dr. Richard Thurer, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine            Bill Amodeo, All Star Media Solutions, Incorporated.            Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County            Princess Perez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County            Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County            Yara Stanziola, Citrus Health Network, Incorporated.            Lourdes Castaneda, Area Health Education Center            John Michael Pierobon, Concerned Citizen            Dr. Osibogun Olatokunbo, Professor of Epidemiology at Florida International University            Shana Bedi, Parents Against Vaping e-Cigarettes (PAVe)            Luis M. Ferrer, Pridelines            Dr. Zinzi Bailey, University of Minnesota</p>	
Welcome and Introductions	<p>Call to order by Dr. Richard Thurer at 9:34 am. Princess Perez welcomed all attendees to the partnership call.</p>	
Review and Approval of Minutes	<p>Bill Amodeo presented a motion for approval of minutes of January 29, 2024, Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting. Princess Perez seconded the motion. Motion passed and minutes approved.</p>	
Partner Updates	<p>Princess Perez gave a brief reminder on PAVe webinars about vaping offered in the following months. 5/14, 9/10, 11/19. Princess Perez provided a reminder to participate in Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action on April 1, 2024.</p> <p><b>Parents Against Vaping e-cigarettes:</b>            Shana Bedi, the education and regional advocacy manager, for PAVe provided an update on upcoming webinars. She also provided an update on the Vapes are Trash initiative and the POISON (Parents Opposing Illegal Sales of Nicotine) initiative to document retailers selling tobacco illegally to minors and adults, but the focus is on the youth.</p>	
Executive Board Updates	<p>Dr. Thurer provided an update on the Executive Board Meeting which was held in person. Amanda Nicole of Apt 305, presented about her organization that deals with opioid substance issues. Another organization called F Fentanyl also provided updates on fentanyl substance</p>	

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	<p>issues and fentanyl awareness and prevention issues. F Fentanyl also promotes the wide dissemination of Narcan in the form of nasal inhalers for opioid users.</p>	
<p>Previous Actions Items</p>	<p>The winner for the World Health Organization outstanding patron of the year will be announced a few days before World No Tobacco Day on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Dr. Wasim Maziak was nominated for his extensive work on hookah and vaping research. World No Tobacco Day update provided by John Michael Pierobon.</p> <p><b>Tobacco Free Environment subcommittee update:</b></p> <p>Senate Bill 1576 and House Bill 496 did not pass. These were key bills in addressing smoke-free State parks in Florida. John Michael stated that Senate sponsor Ana Maria Rodriguez, Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, who represents southern Miami-Dade County had a hearing with her committee and the bills passed unanimously. The senate president chose to assign the bills to a second committee which was unfortunately headed by Senator Jason Brodeur of Orange County who stated he prefers to smoke his cigars in State parks. An updated version of the bill will be reintroduced in the next congressional session in 2025 under President Senator Ben Albritton. John Michael Pierobon recommended that we invite Daniel Perez of District 116 in Miami-Dade County to our Tobacco-Free Workgroup recruitment outdoor event in May. He recommended that the Tobacco-Free Workgroup meet with Speaker Daniel Perez to influence him to decide and assign favorable committees to hear the bill and hopefully pass by an overwhelming majority.</p> <p>California, Hawaii, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Unites States Virgin Islands, all of which have banned smoking and vaping in State parks, stadiums, and playgrounds. France will pass similar legislation and Mexico passed smoke-free park legislation in the past year.</p> <p>Dr. Thurer provided an update about a recent meeting with Mayor Maria Puente Mitchell of Miami Springs, FL to pitch a smoke-free parks and beaches policy to be adopted in her town. Laurie Varona stated that they had previously met with the Parks and Recreation manager of Miami Springs which stated there were ashtrays in public places but the goal is for Miami Springs to adopt a smoke-free parks and beach policy.</p>	

**Youth & Young Adult Essay Contest:**

John Michael Pierobon provided an update on the Youth and Young Adult essay contest that provides \$100 to students who write an article about nicotine issues that is published in a major news publication. Bill Amodeo recommended that Miami-Dade County SWAT youth submit an article that he can push to get published in a local publication.

**Policy and Surveillance Subcommittee:**

Princess Perez provided a brief updated on the Policy and Surveillance subcommittee and stated all partnership members are welcomed and encouraged to join. The Point-of-Sale policy area requires surveillance as part of the workplan activities. Princess Perez and Dr. Zinzi Bailey will meet to discuss reinvigorating the Policy and Surveillance Subcommittee.

**Youth & Young Adult Subcommittee:**

Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee update was provided by Candace Williams. She stated that she is partnering with Hope for Miami organization and the first meeting will be in April 2024.

**Tobacco-Free Public Spaces:**

Laurie Varona provided an update on Tobacco -Free Public Space policy area. Laurie and the partnership recently met with the City of Miami Springs and will meet with Virginia Gardens to discuss joining the partnership. Both cities share recreational fields specifically the soccer programs use for practice and for games. The partnership will need to join the meetings with local-decision makers.

**Smoke-free Multi-unit Housing:**

Smoke-free Multi-unit Housing policy area update provided by Laurie Varona. Many residents of apartment buildings have called the Department of Health to complain about second-hand smoke or the lack of smoke-free multi-unit housing policies. Some properties have faced

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	<p>backlash from residents who feel their rights are being infringed upon. The argument was made that smoking indoors can cause health problems to all residents in the building due to common areas, electrical systems, and shared ventilation systems.</p> <p>Condominium associations must agree by a majority to change their by-laws to adopt smoke-free policies on their properties. Dr. Thurer recommended we use the by-laws documents of properties who have adopted smoke-free policies as a model for other condominium properties wishing to adopt similar policies. The change of by-laws is a lengthy process, but it can be done. Insurance costs can also be a major factor in adopting a smoke-free policy to avoid higher insurance costs. Laurie Varona stated that some Housing and Urban Development properties have not enforced the smoke-free policies so she will provided education and resources where needed.</p> <p>Dr. Zinzi Bailey who is a social epidemiologist focusing on tobacco regulatory issues and cancer disparities provided an update on her new position with the University of Minnesota.</p> <p>Laurie Varona provided an update on the mobile tobacco trucks which are targeting food truck events and targeting college and university campuses. Miami Vice which is a mobile tobacco retailer based out of Miami-Dade County and similar retailers are infiltrating communities throughout the state. GoPuff.com and Amazon.com as well as other online retailers are offering chewing tobacco, hookah, and vape pens.</p>	
<p>New Action Items</p>	<p>John Michael Pierobon urged the partnership to call Governor Ron DeSantis to enact policy change with tobacco and nicotine policies at 850-488-7146.</p> <p>Princess Perez requested a meeting with the Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levin-Cava's office regarding mobile tobacco and nicotine smoke shops.</p> <p>Princess Perez provided an update on the digital Tobacco-Free Florida media advertisement campaign which will run for 3 months in the Spring of 2024.</p> <p>John Michael Pierobon requested that the partnership work closely with the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade and their newsletter to advertise the workgroup</p>	

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<p>Performance Measures</p>	<p>Candace Williams provided an update on the Performance Measures and the 12 sector definitions that require at least one representative: youth, parents, business, media, school, youth-serving organizations, religious or fraternal organizations, law enforcement, civic/volunteer group, health care professional, state, local or tribal governmental agency, or other organizations involved in reducing substance-abuse.</p> <p>Candace Williams suggested we review which areas are not represented in the partnership to invite them to the recruitment event in May 2024. Candace Williams also discussed the annual survey to review key areas for potential growth before the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, deadline.</p>	
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<p>The partnership announced the May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Tobacco-Free Workgroup outdoor recruitment event.</p> <p>John Michael Pierobon recommended we invite the mayor of Hialeah, Florida, Speaker Daniel Perez of District 116, and other decision-makers to attend the recruitment event.</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Call for adjournment by Dr. Thurer at 10:37am.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting will be held on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2024, virtually at 9:30 am.</li> </ul>	