

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Tobacco-Free Workgroup Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20th, 2024, 9:30am

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members Present	Dr. Richard Thurer, Chair, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Bill Amodeo, Vice Chair, All Star Media John Michael Pierobon, Concerned Citizen Zinzi Bailey, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota Rosa Nova, Administrative benefit director, Miami-Dade County Public Schools Alan Benoit, Program Manager, Hope for Miami Veruschka Quilez, Concerned Citizen Lourdes Castaneda, Program Manager, University of Miami AHEC Antonia Leavitt, Director of Cancer Screening, University of Miami Sylvester Center Olatokunbo Osibogun, Assistant professor at the department of epidemiology, Florida International University Jose Gonzalez, Princess Perez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County	
Welcome and Introductions	The Tobacco-Free Workgroup Meeting was brought to order by the Chair, Dr. Richard Thurer, at 9:35am. All members were welcomed and introduced themselves.	
Review and Approval of Minutes	The minutes from the Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting held on March 25, 2024, were reviewed. No changes to the minutes were noted. John Michael Pierobon made the motion to approve the minutes and Dr. Zinzi Bailey seconded the motion. Members of the Tobacco-Free Workgroup unanimously approved the minutes from March 25, 2024.	
Partner Updates	<p>World Health Organization Nomination</p> <p>An update was given on the World No Tobacco Day nomination Dr. Wasim Maziak that was sent in from the Tobacco-Free Workgroup. The winners will not be announced until the end of the month of May.</p> <p>TFW Chair</p> <p>Dr. Richard Thurer announced he will be retiring and stepping down from the TFW Chair position and thanked everyone for their hard work throughout the years.</p>	

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Executive Board Updates	There were no executive updates.	
Previous Action Items	<p>Subcommittee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco-Free Environments Subcommittee – The subcommittee met on May 7th, 2024, to discuss several important topics. These included addressing indoor vaping infractions, reviewing new bills being introduced in the upcoming legislative session, examining Amendment 3, and planning for the 2024 Intercoastal Clean-up. The discussions aimed to develop strategies for managing vaping violations, understand the implications of new legislation, and organize efforts for the environmental clean-up initiative. • Policy & Surveillance Subcommittee –The subcommittee met on April 24th, 2024, to review current tobacco control policies, identify enforcement gaps, and explore new surveillance strategies. They focused on guidelines for vaping and alternative tobacco products, aiming to enhance policies and implement robust monitoring systems to reduce tobacco use and improve public health. • POS Task Force – The POS Task Force met on April 29th, 2024, to discuss issues related to mobile smoke shops. The meeting included discussions with key decision-makers, such as Mayor Levine Cava, about zoning initiatives in Miami-Dade County. Additionally, the task force addressed the upcoming TFW recruitment event. These discussions aimed to develop strategies for regulating mobile smoke shops and ensure effective implementation of zoning laws to protect public health. • Youth & Young Adult Subcommittee – The subcommittee met on April 1, 2024, to discuss recruiting youth organizations, such as local churches and Boys & Girls Clubs to join the county’s Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Chapter. The discussions aimed to increase the youth group’s involvement and diversity throughout the county while educating and encouraging youth to stand against the peer pressures of youth smoking and vaping. <p>Amendment 3</p>	

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- The Ballot Title is as follows “Adults Personal Use of Marijuana”. This initiative would amend Article X, Section 29 of the Florida Constitution.
- The proposed ballot summary is as follows: Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date. John Michael wrote on article against Amendment 3, and it was published in the Tallahassee, FL, Fort Walton Beach, FL, and Daytona Beach, FL, newspaper, and the Guardian in England.

Point of Sale

- The City of Doral passed an ordinance last quarter which restricts tobacco and nicotine retailers and mobile smoke shops from opening or parking within 500 feet of schools and youth-based organizations.
- To address the issue of mobile smoke shops allowing youth and young adults access to tobacco products, a comprehensive approach is needed. The workgroup discussed a strategy for advocating other municipalities to make the same policy changes. First, review and ensure existing regulations include mobile vendors, and implement strict licensing and permitting processes. Enforce rigorous age verification, using government-issued IDs and age verification software. Establish location restrictions to keep mobile smoke shops away from schools, parks, and areas frequented by minors, with defined minimum distances. Conduct regular compliance checks, imposing penalties for violations. Launch public awareness campaigns to educate the community about the risks and encourage reporting violations. Develop vendor training programs on legal requirements and proper age verification. Work with policymakers to close regulatory loopholes and involve stakeholders in the policy development process. Explore technological solutions like geo-fencing and real-time tracking to ensure compliance.

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	<p>These measures will create a robust framework to prevent youth and young adults from accessing tobacco products through mobile smoke shops.</p> <p>Smokefree Multiunit Housing (SFMUH)</p> <p>Princess Perez provided an update from Laurie Varona. Residents are complaining about marijuana smoke seeping into their units, highlighting the need for property managers to be educated on managing this type of violation. It is suggested that property managers adopt a comprehensive definition of smoking and vaping to address this issue effectively. This includes explicitly including marijuana in non-smoking policies and implementing measures to prevent smoke from infiltrating neighboring units. Property managers should be trained on enforcement strategies, such as clear communication of policies to residents, regular inspections, and prompt response to complaints. Additionally, installing proper ventilation systems and sealing gaps between units can help mitigate the spread of smoke. By adopting a broad and clear definition of smoking and vaping, property managers can create a healthier living environment for all residents.</p> <p>Tobacco-Free Public Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade (FDOH) publicly recognized The City of Miami-Beach, Coral Gables, City of Hialeah, City of Aventura, City of Doral, City of Miami, and Miami-Dade County for implementing smokefree parks and beaches policy in 2024. • Providers and partners met with City of Miami Springs and the Village of Virginia Gardens about implementing an ordinance on smokefree parks and recreations. <p>SWAT Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various clubs within The Miami-Dade SWAT Chapter hosted events to commemorate the upcoming tobacco observance, World No Tobacco Day. 	
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	<p>Regional SWAT training will be held in Glades County to reinforce the mission of SWAT and provide an opportunity for Region 4 SWAT youth to collaborate on best practices. This training aims to educate peers on the harms of smoking, chewing tobacco, and vaping. Through workshops, discussions, and interactive sessions, participants will share strategies and develop new approaches to effectively communicate the risks associated with tobacco use. This collaborative effort will empower youth to become stronger advocates in their communities, promoting healthier lifestyles and reducing tobacco use among their peers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWAT currently has two clubs operating within the City of Hialeah Park system. • SWAT currently has 11 clubs operating with the Miami-Dade County Public School which include Jose Marti MAST Academy, Barbara Goleman Senior High School, Hialeah Gardens High School, Hialeah Gardens Middle School, Miami Edison Senior High School, Miami Central Senior High School, Miami Jackson Senior High School, Miami Lakes Middle School, Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Southwest Miami Senior High School, and William H. Turner Technical Arts High School. <p>Essay Contest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Michael mentioned the contest open to anyone under 21 years of age to submit an essay on tobacco prevention. If the essay is published in a major Florida newspaper, they will receive a \$100 gift card. The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade and the Tobacco-Free Workgroup will continue to promote the contest to the Miami-Dade Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Chapter and community partners. <p>Cessation Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope for Miami has implemented a cessation access referral system and the YMCA has been engaged to implement a referral system as well. 	
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Upcoming Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FALA Senior Day – May 29, 2024 • MAPP Kick-off and Community Partners Assessment – May 30, 2024 • World Tobacco Day – May 31, 2024 • Regional SWAT training in Glades County – June 7, 2024 • City of Miami Family Fun Day – June 8, 2024 • City of Hialeah Employee Health Fair – June 11, 2024 	
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned by chair, Dr. Richard Thurer, at 10:35am. • The next Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting will be held on July 22th, 2024. 	