

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Tobacco-Free Workgroup
 Meeting Minutes
 Date Monday, January 29, 2024
 Time: 9:30am-11:00am



TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members Present	Richard J. Thurer M.D., Chair, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Bill Amodeo, All Star Media John Michael Pierobon, Concerned Citizen Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. Princess Perez, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. Natouchka Murray, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Shana Bedi, Parents Against Vaping Jason R. Dahn, Miami Veteran Affairs Antonia Pryor Leavitt, Director of Cancer Screening University of Miami-Sylvester Olatokunbo Osibogun, Professor of Epidemiology at Florida International University. Yara J. Stanziola, Citrus Luis M. Ferrer, Florida Department of Health, Pridelines	
Welcome and Introductions	The Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting was called to order by Chair, Dr. Richard Thurer, at 9:38 a.m. Laurie Varona welcomed all members. All members introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.	
Review and Approval of Minutes	John Michael Pierobon stated that the term the “provider” in the November meeting minutes needs clarification. He recommended to edit the minutes to change Bill 495 to House Bill 495 and to change Anna Maria Rodriguez to Ana Maria Rodriguez. John Michael Pierobon made a motion for approval of the minutes and Yara J. Stanziola seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were approved.	
Partner Updates	Parents Against Vaping (PAVe) Updates Shana Bedi from Partners Against Vaping (PAVe) thanked all for joining. She stated that PAVe will have frequent webinars. The next PAVe conference will be in the spring of 2025. In the interim, PAVe will continue to have webinars on topics including vaping of nicotine and cannabis and tobacco cessation. The PAVe organization is in St. Petersburg, FL and has volunteers in Oregon, NY, CA and are expanding rapidly throughout the country. Ms. Shana Bedi will mobilize the Miami/Fort Lauderdale volunteers to partner with the Florida Dept of Health.	

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	<p>World Health Organization Updates John Michael Pierobon discussed World No Tobacco Day which will be on May 31, 2024. He received letters of recommendation for Dr. Wasim Maziak from Bill Amodeo and Dr. Thurer to the WHO.</p> <p>Recruitment Updates John Michael Pierobon suggested to go to campus events (UM, FIU, MDC) to recruit professors and college students and alumni possibly at sports events with fraternities and sororities.</p> <p>The workgroup discussed doing a partnership recruitment event which will possibly be a tabling event. Laurie Varona Contacted the Miami-Dade County Fair for partnership and is awaiting response.</p>	
<p>Executive Board Updates</p>	<p>Executive Board update by Bill Amodeo. No update related to the Tobacco Free Workgroup at the Executive board update.</p>	
<p>Previous Actions Items</p>	<p>Take Down Tobacco Day of Action Candace Williams stated the Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action will be on 4/1/24. She will provide updates accordingly.</p> <p>House Bill 495 Update John Michael Pierobon gave update on House Bill 495. Representative Ana Maria Rodriguez is the chair of environmental resources committee and passed the bill on one committee. House Bill 495 is going to the second committee in first week of February 2024. The problem that we have is that we need to convince James Buchanan who is the chair of the first sub-committee and the agriculture conservation and resilience subcommittee. He has not taken any action after 2 months. John Michael Pierobon provided the office number for James Buchanan 850-717-5074 and urged the workgroup to call his office to make sure the bill is on the agenda, leave the following message: “Please schedule House Bill 495 on the agenda in your subcommittee.” There are identical bills in both houses; unfortunately, the preemption</p>	

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	<p>clause has caused issues for 20 years. He wrote an op-ed in a Tallahassee publication and in <i>USA Today</i>, in a Daytona newspaper, and a Jacksonville newspaper.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Updates</p>	<p>Zoning Task Force update Laurie Varona provided an update for the Zoning Task Force which met last quarter. The goal is to speak to the zoning departments for all cities in Miami-Dade County to avoid smoke shops operating in proximity to schools or youth organizations. Point of sale zoning policies limit new smoke/vape shops from opening and limit external advertisement.</p> <p>The Hialeah Coalition update The Hialeah Coalition is focusing on Point of Sale (POS) to identify infractions that are occurring at gas stations. In February 2024 Laurie Varona and Princess Perez will be showcasing to the Hialeah Coalition how to identify infractions at POS, implementation of POS zoning policies, and prevalence of mobile vape shops. New signage is needed at Point of sale due to outdated signage that does not show the correct legal age for purchasing tobacco and nicotine products.</p> <p>Policy and Surveillance Committee update The Policy and Surveillance Committee needs a new chairperson. Candace Williams opened the position to all members on the call. Dr. Zinzi Bailey is the immediate past chairperson. Candace will reach out to Dr. Zinzi Bailey to confirm her role on the committee.</p> <p>Youth and Young Adult subcommittee update Candace Williams and update about the Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee will send 2 youth from Miami-Dade to the Youth Advocacy Board to represent the county at the statewide level. Attended retreat for upcoming events. Regional training will be in May 2024.</p> <p>The focus is awareness of the marketing tactics of the tobacco and nicotine companies. There are currently 13 SWAT clubs throughout Miami-Dade County. -invitation Candace extended an invitation to everyone in the workgroup to join the Youth and Young Adult Subcommittee.</p>	

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Youth and Young Adult Essay Contest

John Michael Pierobon provided an update for the Youth and Young Adult Essay Contest. Youth up to the age of 21 can submit an essay and if the essay is published in a newspaper, they win \$100 gift card.

Tobacco Free Public Spaces (TFPub)

Laurie Varona provided an update that several cities in Miami-Dade have implemented smokefree parks and beaches policies with municipalities adding vaping to their policies. The workgroup emphasized that each city that has implemented the smokefree policies update their signage to reflect the change. It took Fort Lauderdale 5 months to update their signage.

Smokefree Multi-unit Housing (SFMUH) updates

All Miami-Dade public housing properties are being renovated. Tallahassee has requested quotes for new signage in public housing properties. A request has been entered to include Spanish and Haitian Creole signage. Laurie Varona stated that there are many misconceptions about smokefree policies in market-rate housing. Florida Department of Health (FL-DOH) has received many complaints about smoking in market-rate apartments. The increases in rents are causing residents to complain about second-hand and third-hand smoke in their units.

Market housing do not know if they can do no-smoking policies. Smokefree multiunit housing has a shorter turnaround period after tenants vacate the property. A smoke-free policy is a good health decision and a good business decision. Discussion ensued about SFMUH. Dr. Thurer asked about fines can be imposed on the management companies that do not have smoke-free policies or enforce the policies. Federal mandate needs to be implemented. Dr. Thurer suggested we reach out to county council.

Mobile Smokes shops updates

Bill Amodeo provided the mobile smoke shop update, that they are not regulated. The mobile smoke shops offer vaping parties. He urged us to contact the Health Policy Law Center in Minneapolis, MN via email for legal updates on this issue. Tallahassee does not know which policy area will address the mobile smoke shops as the topic is a work in progress.

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Performance Measure in Need of Improvement	Survey has been created on survey monkey and will be circulated. Candace will work with leadership team to identify diverse partners in the 12 sectors including: youth, parents, business, media, school, religious organizations, civic organizations, state agencies, local organizations, and law enforcement. Dr. Thurer requested we reinvigorate the involvement of dormant organizations in the coalition to identify categories not represented to recruit organizations in each category.	
Upcoming Events	Take Down Tobacco National Day of Action April 1, 2024 World No Tobacco Day May 31, 2024	
Adjourn	Motion for Adjournment by Dr. Richard Thurer at 10: 41 a.m and John Michael Pierobon seconded the motion. Motion approved.	