

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE
Tobacco-Free Workgroup Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members Present (20)	1. Bill Amodeo, Co-chair, All Star Media 2. Alan Benoit, Hope for Miami 3. Alicia Diaz Oria, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center 4. Asma Aftab, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine 5. Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 6. Eunice Mesumbe, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 7. Jose Gonzalez, Century Risk Advisors 8. Juliana Duque, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center 9. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County 10. Lourdes Castaneda, University of Miami Area Health Education Centers 11. Luis Ferrer, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 12. Melody Espinoza, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 13. Natalie Gray, Western Atlantic University School of Medicine 14. Olatokunbo Osibogun, Florida International University 15. Rosa Novo, Miami-Dade County Public Schools 16. Tatiana Perrino, University of Miami 17. Tiffany Albury, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center 18. Simisola Olowodola, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County 19. Yara Stanziola, Citrus Health Network 20. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County	
Welcome and Introductions	The Tobacco-Free Workgroup Meeting was called to order by Bill Amodeo at 9:40 a.m. with all members welcomed and introduced.	
Review and Approval of Minutes	The May 26, 2026 meeting minutes from the Tobacco-Free Workgroup were reviewed. Zadymon Moore motioned to approve the minutes, and Juliana Duque seconded the motion.	
Track progress of Tobacco-Free	The group discussed and tracked the progress on an informal tracker to capture planned activities, ideas, and potential opportunities to address work group activities. Members	

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Workgroup 2025-2030 Workplan	were encouraged to review the activities in advance and identify any community events, existing partnerships ,or planned initiatives that may already fulfill specific activities. The group identified the ongoing collaboration with Catholic Charities as a potential activity that is already being addresses. Members also discussed strengthening the relationship with Area Health Education Centers-Miami and exploring opportunities to collaborate on tobacco cessation referral programs and processes. The group also discussed an activity focused on increasing awareness of the risk factors and harms of tobacco use among older adults and promoting cessation through a partnership between the Tobacco-Free Workgroup and the Elder Issues Committee. In recognition of Healthy Aging Month in September, as well as Alzheimer’s Day on September 21 and Fall Prevention Day on September 22, members considered whether the Elder Issues Committee could provide a presentation at the September 29 bi-monthly TFW meeting or whether the collaboration should be expanded to include educational materials or another resource. Members were asked to provide their input and ideas. Suggestions included reaching out to the Elder Issues Committee to determine what activities or observances they already have planned for September and exploring opportunities to incorporate or support their existing efforts. The group agreed that this would be a good next step. Members were encouraged to continue sharing ideas and suggestions through email or the meeting chat.	
Partner Updates	University of Miami AHEC Program: Lourdes Quintero shared ongoing collaboration efforts such as developing a tobacco cessation palm card featuring a QR code called “Scan to Quit”. The resource is intended to provide an accessible way for individuals to connect with tobacco cessation information and resources. Florida Department of Health: Luis Ferrer also shared upcoming engagement opportunities. On September 18, is HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day which may	

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	present an opportunity for the workgroup to participate and provide tobacco prevention and cessation resources. Additionally, on August 24, a Youth Health and Wellness Fair will be held at the Naranja Branch Library in Homestead. The event will include tabling opportunities, HIV/STD testing, and food distribution provided by AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). The event is expected to have strong youth participation, as the library's youth program will be meeting that day. Connections were made with Stephanie Wattle, the event coordinator, for information on how to participate.	
New Action Items	The Tobacco-Free Workgroup will provide an in-person presentation to the children's Issues and Oral Health Committee highlighting how the partnership has strengthened outreach, collaboration, and connections with community organizations. The presentation will also explore opportunities for future collaboration. Laurie Varona shared an update on an upcoming Point-of-Sale training and highlighted the City of Doral's tobacco retailer ordinance as a potential model for future discussions with decisions makers. The ordinance limits retailer locations near schools and parks, caps the number of retailers, and includes restrictions on mobile units. Eunice Mesumbe noted that members interested in attending the Children's Issues and Oral Health Committee meeting should contact her to coordinate attendance due to limited space. She also encouraged members to bring tobacco cessation materials to share with partners attending the meeting.	
Upcoming Events	Hope for Miami Back-to-School Event August 8, 2026 from 9:00am to 1:00 p.m. School supplies are being collected, and backpacks will be distributed to families. The group discussed providing tobacco prevention and health information. Tree of Life 6th Annual Community Baby Shower August 29, 2026 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Connect mothers and families to local healthcare organizations and provide essential supplies, resources, and social support networks.	



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Adjourn	Co-chair, Bill Amodeo adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m. The next Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on September 29, 2026.	
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