

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Tobacco-Free Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, 9:30am

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members Present	Bill Amodeo, All Star Media Melody S Claro, University of Minnesota Oshea Johnson, University of Minnesota Natalie Gray, Western Atlantic University School of Medicine Lourdes Castaneda, University of Miami Olatokunbo Osibogun, Florida International University Rutendo E. Chimbaru, University of Miami Vittoria Cianciulli, Miami Lakes Middle School Alina Hughes, Robert Morgan High School Ami Merino, Homestead High School Jacqueline Garcia, Hialeah Gardens Middle School Alvaro Mejia-Echeverry, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County Nakeisha Hendricks, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County	
Welcome and Introductions	The Tobacco-Free Workgroup Meeting was called to order by Bill Amodeo at 9:37 AM, with all members welcomed and introduced. All members were invited to introduce themselves and answer the ice breaker question.	
Review and Approval of Minutes	The minutes from the Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting held on September 30 th , 2025, were reviewed. No changes to the minutes were noted. Bill Amodeo made the motion to approve the minutes. Laurie Varona motioned to approve the minutes and Zadymon Moore seconded the motion. Members of the Tobacco-Free Workgroup unanimously approved the minutes from September 30 th , 2025.	
Partner Updates	During the partner updates segment, participants shared key programmatic and policy-related updates. The University of Miami Tobacco Cessation Program reported receiving approval from the Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida to launch an incentive-based cessation initiative, offering financial incentives for individuals who complete single-session or multi-week programs, pending final material approvals. Partners also provided updates on ongoing research efforts, including recruitment for a youth-focused vaping perceptions study involving Miami-Dade County high school students, and encouraged dissemination of recruitment materials through partner networks. Additional discussion raised concerns about youth access to	

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	<p>tobacco and nicotine products through mobile smoke shops, delivery services, and vending machines that may lack proper age verification, underscoring the need for continued monitoring, documentation, and collaboration to inform policy and enforcement efforts.</p>	
<p>Executive Board Updates</p>	<p>The Executive Board met virtually and discussed recent activities, including the Food and Nutrition For All Collaborative’s Beyond the Table: Experience–Data–Policy–Action meeting. Board members reflected on the importance of addressing food security through intentional, policy-driven efforts, supported by new Quest grant funding. Updates were also provided on the ALICE Report and United Way Miami’s five-year investment cycle. The Board reviewed the success of the 22nd Annual Consortium Event & Worksite Wellness Awards, which drew 93 attendees, and completed a SWOT analysis to guide future planning. Members were reminded that the 2025–2030 CHIP Priority Areas will focus on Access to Care, Chronic Disease, Behavioral and Mental Health, Maternal and Child Health, and Healthy Weight/Physical Activity/Nutrition. The Board also assessed accomplishments under the 2019–2025 work plan and began identifying items that should carry forward into the 2025–2030 Consortium Strategic Plan and Executive Board work plan. Additional updates included a press release and call to action from the Food and Nutrition For All Collaborative regarding federal SNAP changes, and further discussions on whether to alternate future Consortium Annual Events and Florida Worksite Wellness Awards as separate functions.</p>	
<p>Presentation</p>	<p>The THRIVE youth focus group presentation highlighted an ongoing research study aimed at understanding Miami-Dade County high school students’ perceptions, access, and potential use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). THRIVE stands for Florida Teens Health Research Insights on Vaping and ENDS and reflects the study’s focus on elevating youth voices to better understand the factors shaping vaping behaviors. Presenters explained that the study will use small, moderated focus groups to explore how social, family, school, neighborhood, and policy environments influence youth exposure to vaping. The study does not require participants to be current users, as it seeks broader insights into attitudes, norms, and access pathways, including retail locations and emerging sources such as mobile vendors. Partners were informed that recruitment is underway through youth-serving organizations, with both virtual and limited in-person sessions planned, and participants will receive incentives</p>	

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	<p>for their involvement. The presentation emphasized the importance of partner support in sharing recruitment materials and noted that findings will help inform future prevention strategies, policy discussions, and tobacco control efforts focused on protecting youth.</p>	
<p>Previous Action Items</p>	<p>Action Plan for FY 25-26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Action Plan for 2025–2026 was discussed as a strategic framework to guide tobacco prevention and control efforts over the upcoming period. Partners reviewed progress made to date and emphasized the importance of incorporating broad partner feedback to ensure the plan reflects shared priorities, emerging trends, and community needs. The discussion highlighted the use of interactive tools to gather input and identify focus areas, with an emphasis on strengthening collaboration, aligning activities with long-term public health goals, and advancing a comprehensive approach to tobacco- and nicotine-free environments. It was noted that finalization of the Action Plan will continue into the new year, with plans to reconvene in person to further refine priorities, confirm strategies, and ensure the plan supports sustained impact across Miami-Dade County. Partners were encouraged to actively participate in the upcoming in-person session to help shape measurable objectives and actionable steps. This collaborative process will help ensure the Action Plan remains responsive, data-driven, and aligned with both local and state tobacco prevention priorities. <p>Mobile Smoke Shop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The discussion on mobile smoke shops focused on growing concerns about the accessibility of tobacco and nicotine products through mobile vendors operating within Miami-Dade County. Updates indicated that multiple mobile smoke shops have been identified and are actively delivering products on demand, often through app-based platforms. Partners expressed concern about potential gaps in age verification, as many of these services rely on self-reported age confirmation rather than scanning valid identification. Additional issues were raised regarding vending machines that operate under similar verification limitations. The conversation emphasized the need for continued tracking, documentation, and information sharing among partners to better understand these operations, identify regulatory loopholes, and 	

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	support future policy, education, and enforcement efforts aimed at preventing youth access to tobacco and nicotine products.	
New Action Items	<p>New State Bill: HB 389</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> House Bill 389 is a proposed state measure focused on expanding protections against exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor in public spaces. The bill seeks to update and clarify state definitions related to smoking and vaping and would prohibit the use of tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems, and marijuana smoking or vaping in a broad range of indoor and outdoor public places. These include streets, sidewalks, parks, beaches, government properties, schools, hospitals, workplaces, restaurants, transportation facilities, and shared areas of multiunit housing, with limited exceptions such as designated airport smoking rooms. The legislation aims to address gaps in existing law and respond to increasing concerns about smoking and vaping in shared public environments. If enacted, the bill would strengthen public health protections by creating more comprehensive smoke free and vape free spaces across the state. Partners discussed the importance of monitoring the bill’s progress and identifying opportunities to support education and advocacy efforts. Continued engagement will be critical to ensuring stakeholders understand the public health benefits of the proposed policy. 	
Upcoming Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tobacco Prevention Summit – November 21, 2025 Communities Talk: Health Uncovered - The Anatomy of Substance Misuse – December 16, 2025 	
Adjourn	The meeting concluded with Vice Chair Bill Amodeo expressing gratitude to participants for their time, engagement, and ongoing commitment to tobacco prevention efforts. He thanked the group for the meaningful discussions and updates, extended well wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season, and shared that the workgroup would reconvene in the new year. The meeting officially adjourned at 10:20 a.m., and the next Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting is scheduled to be held in person on January 27, 2026, where partners will review progress, exchange updates, and continue advancing the 2025–2026 Action Plan.	