

**CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE**

Tobacco-Free Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
<p>Members Present (20)</p>	<p><b>In person:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Zinzi Bailey, Chair, University of Minnesota</li> <li>2. Bill Amodeo, Co-chair, All Star Media</li> <li>3. Alan Benoit, Hope for Miami</li> <li>4. Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>5. Candice Schottenloher, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>6. Christopher Pierce, Florida Army National Guard Counterdrug Program</li> <li>7. Juliana Duque, University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center</li> <li>8. Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County</li> <li>9. Melody Espinoza, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>10. Nakeisha Hendricks, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County</li> <li>11. Simisola Olowodola, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County</li> <li>12. Zadymon Moore, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County</li> </ol> <p><b>Virtual, Microsoft Teams:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Alvaro Mejia-Echeverry, Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade County</li> <li>2. Ami Merino, Homestead High School</li> <li>3. Lourdes Castaneda, University of Miami Area Health Education Centers</li> <li>4. Luis Ferrer, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>5. Mari C Rodriguez, Iman’s Light Foundation</li> <li>6. Natouchka Murray, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> <li>7. Ryan MacDonald, University of Miami</li> <li>8. Sandra Echeverry-Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County</li> </ol>	
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p>	<p>The Tobacco-Free Workgroup Meeting was called to order by Zinzi Bailey at 9:33 a.m. with all members welcomed and introduced. All members were invited to introduce themselves and answer the ice breaker question.</p>	

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<p>Review and Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>The November 18, 2025 meeting minutes from the Tobacco-Free Workgroup were reviewed. Zadymon Moore motioned to approve the minutes, and Candice Schottenloher seconded the motion. Members of the Tobacco-Free Workgroup unanimously approved the minutes from November 18, 2025.</p>	
<p>Partner Updates</p>	<p><b>Iman’s Light Foundation:</b> Dr. Mari Rodriguez from Iman’s Light Foundation shared that they have recruited four additional schools to be part of <i>The Truth About Drugs</i> educational workshops. These workshops consist of sharing the dangerous harms of vaping, lethal and highly addictive drugs, alcohol binging, prescription drug abuse and how today’s societal pressures influence the youth today. Increased knowledge during these workshops is measured by pre- and post-assessments. They reported mass acceptance from school staff and administrators.</p> <p><b>University of Miami/ Florida Area Health Education Centers (AHEC):</b> Lourdes Castaneda shared that AHEC initiated a gift incentive program for tobacco cessation group participants. Said cessation program multiple educational sessions equipped with tobacco-cessation resources such as quit plans, strategies and skills to combat cravings like complimentary patches, gum or lozenges (if medically appropriate), handling of setbacks and relapses, and a supportive setting to share your experiences. Courses are offered in-person and virtually.</p> <p><b>Hope for Miami:</b> Alan Benoit shared that Hope for Miami will be participating at two health fairs in the month of February:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Miami <i>Health &amp; Wellness Event</i>, February 19, 2026</li> <li>- Miami Springs <i>Health &amp; Wellness Fair</i>, February 21, 2026</li> </ul> <p>In addition, they will be hosting their upcoming <i>Communities Talk: Health Uncovered</i> event at Paul W. Bell Middle School on March 11, 2026. These health fairs showcase different parts of human anatomy and how substances affect them. Their goal is to equip students through educational resources and demonstrations to make better choices regarding substance abuse and prevent alcohol and other drug misuse.</p>	<p>Connect Dr. Mari Rodriguez (Iman’s Light Foundation) with additional schools to secure future funding to host vaping and street cannabis educational classes.</p>

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<p>Tobacco-Free Workgroup          2025-2030 Workplan          Development  <b>Session 2</b></p>	<p>The second session of the <i>Tobacco-Free Workgroup 2025-2030 Workplan Development</i> was facilitated by Candice Schottenloher, MPH, CHES, Government Operations Consultant III, Office of Community Health &amp; Planning, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County. The following DOH staff were also in attendance and provided additional support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zadymon Moore, Senior Health Educator</li> <li>- Simisola Olowodola, Research and Statistics Consultant</li> </ul> <p>As a refresher, the 2025-2030 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priority areas are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to Care</li> <li>- Chronic Disease Prevention</li> <li>- Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</li> <li>- Maternal Child Health</li> <li>- Healthy Weight /Physical Activity/Nutrition</li> </ul> <p>Significant progress to the draft workplan was made during the January TFW meeting. Feedback provided by the online and in-person attendees was captured by the Florida Department of Health staff. The draft of this workplan was shared and reviewed onscreen to mainly discuss collaborative partners. While significant edits of the draft workplan have been reviewed and completed, the Tobacco-Free Workgroup agreed to share the draft workplan amongst its members and expand more on potential collaborative partners for the priority areas of Behavioral &amp; Mental Health, Maternal Child Health, and Healthy Weight /Physical Activity/Nutrition.</p>	
<p>Previous Action Items</p>	<p>This section was not specifically addressed at this meeting on 1/2026 since most of the meeting was focused on TFW 2025-2030 Work Plan Development.</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss the following items during the upcoming meeting in March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mobile Smoke Shops</li> <li>- Media Recruitment Posters</li> <li>- State Bill 986 – Smoking in Public Places</li> </ul>	

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<p>New Action Items</p>	<p>This section was not specifically addressed at this meeting on 1/2026 since most of the meeting was focused on TFW 2025-2030 Work Plan Development.</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss the following items during the upcoming meeting in March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New State Bills 980 Nicotine Dispensing and 982 Medical Marijuana</li> <li>• Additional Media Outlets</li> <li>• Zyn Products in Non-Smoking Areas</li> </ul>	
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Miami <i>Health &amp; Wellness Event</i>, February 19, 2026</li> <li>• Miami Springs <i>Health &amp; Wellness Fair</i>, February 21, 2026</li> <li>• <i>Fight For Air Climb</i> at Loan Depot Park Stair-Climbing event to raise awareness and support for lung health and clean air initiatives: March 1, 2026</li> </ul>	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<p>Chair, Dr. Zinzi Bailey adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.</p> <p>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.</p>	