

CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE

Tobacco-Free Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 22, 2023

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members Present	Dr. Richard Thurer, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Dr. Zinzi Bailey, University of Miami Sylvester Cancer Center Bill Amodeo, All Star Media John Michael Pierobon, Concerned Citizen Luigi Ferrer, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Laurie Varona, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Nikki Chuck, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Candace Williams, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County	
Welcome and Introductions	The Tobacco-Free Workgroup 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 27, 2023, were reviewed. No changes to the minutes were noted. John Michael Pierobon made the motion to approve the minutes and Nikki Chuck seconded the motion. Members of the Tobacco-Free Workgroup unanimously approved the minutes from March 27, 2023.	
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Michael mentioned the essay contest for anyone under 21 years of age. If they submit an essay on a tobacco prevention topic and they are published in a major Florida newspaper, they 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. • Dr. Richard Thurer mentioned that the Tobacco-Free Workgroup needs to advertise this contest more to the SWAT clubs and suggested to make it a summer project. 	

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<p>Executive Board Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Together for Children Youth Summit took place at FIU. Although tobacco prevention staff were unable to attend due to the CDC site visit, many consortium members were able to present at the summit. The STD/HIV Prevention and Control Program from the Florida Department of Health attended with their mobile unit and held 4 presentations for youth present. They received great feedback from the youth about the presentations. • Mental Health Awareness month is in June. It was shared that information about Mental Health Awareness is being shared on the Consortium website and through NAMI. Susan Holtzman has become the new CEO of NAMI Miami-Dade and she has close ties with the Consortium. It would be ideal to reach out to her and speak to her to collaborate on future events. • The Executive Board for the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade previously met to discuss and begin planning for the 20th Consortium Anniversary. If there is anyone who might be interested in serving on the committee, please reach out to leadership or Nancy for further details. Save the dates will be sent out once it has been finalized and approved by the Executive Board. • The CDC site visit was very well put together and very favorable with the CDC representatives. They wanted Miami-Dade to share what the community is doing, not only within our state, but around the country. Thinking of ways to disseminate all the positive programs that are occurring throughout the country through social media or other platforms would be beneficial for the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County and the Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade. The COVID-19 grant will end by the end of May 2024. There are 35 ongoing projects throughout the county. There is a public health infrastructure grant that will be implemented to help extend the work of these projects throughout the county. 	
<p>Previous Action Items</p>	<p>Meeting Platform</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been some discussion about occasionally moving the meetings to in person with a hybrid option being available for those who would like to still attend workgroup meetings virtually. Dr. Thurer suggested meeting virtually during the summer and in-person in the fall around November. John Michael and Luigi shared that they are conducting hybrid meetings and it has been going very well because many are unable to attend in-person meetings due to time restrictions. Members are aiming for a hybrid meeting in September, either at the Beacon Center or at West Perrine. <p>Subcommittee Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cessation Access – Nikki updated the group that they are actively looking for a new chair for the subcommittee because Maritza Tejada had to step down from the role. AHEC staff/representatives cannot serve in leadership positions, but can be active committee members and support events and activities. The subcommittee is asking everyone to promote and complete the 2023 Public Health Concerns Community Survey. • Tobacco-Free Environments Subcommittee – Laurie updated the group that they are actively looking for a new chair for the subcommittee because Guadalupe Barroso had to step down from the role since AHEC staff cannot serve in leadership positions. The subcommittee hopes they will have a new chair soon so they can promote important issues about how tobacco affects the environment, have new members, and promote free smoking cessation classes. <p>Tobacco Free Public Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On May 8th, staff and the Workgroup Chair met at the Miami-Dade Housing, Recreation, Culture & Community Development Committee meeting to speak about the smokefree parks and beaches policy. Dr. Thurer and Dave Doebler spoke about the importance of passing the countywide smokefree parks and beaches ordinance and the negative effects cigarette butts have on the environment. There was no opposition present. It passed the first reading. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On May 9th, staff and the Workgroup Chair attended the City of Hialeah City Commission meeting where the first reading of their smokefree parks ordinance took place. Although members of the public were not permitted to speak, they were able to schedule a meeting with decision makers to discuss the policy change, proper information about AHEC cessation classes, and potential options to replace fines for violating the ordinance. More education is needed to update the verbiage of the ordinance. The second reading will be held on June 13th. • John Michael is trying to identify somebody in the Miami-Dade County Legislation Delegation to introduce a bill that would allow residents to make our State parks and beaches smokefree. One hundred miles of our beaches lie within State parks which include Key Biscayne. Vickie Lopez, District 113, is the representative of Key Biscayne. Joe Grueters would introduce the bill and Alexis Calatayud is a Florida Senator representing the 38th district. The bill may go to the community affairs committee. Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick introduced the Disposable Ends Product Enforcement Act, 2023. This bill essentially states that the FDA needs to start enforcing the vaping rules. <p>SWAT Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candace Williams stated the Miami-Dade SWAT Chapter had its first in-person training in 3 years, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The training took place on May 11th, 2023, at Topgolf Doral. Approximately 40 youth attended; because of competing activities such as prom and graduation, many could not attend. They were trained on emerging tobacco issues, the student code of conduct, and the benefits of having a more comprehensive tobacco free school policy. They were also presented with honor cords and awards for their dedication and commitment to SWAT. Southwest Senior High was awarded “SWAT Club of the Year” for their attendance at monthly county calls and their contributions to the program. • Staff are currently working on establishing new SWAT clubs and extending the opportunity to community organizations such as the Gang Alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nikki will reach out to the City of Hialeah before the second reading to help share some recommendations and clarify quit information available through local AHECs.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWAT advisors receive a stipend to lead the club throughout the entire school year. The SWAT Coordinator is trying to increase the amount of money each advisor gets to govern over the groups as an incentive to stay engaged throughout the school year. • Staff have been having difficulties recruiting advisers because they may be already overseeing multiple clubs, or they do not align with the SWAT mission because they are smokers themselves or they have outside competing activities. • SWAT is working with the Children’s Trust to expand their mission. • John Michael suggested movie night. Laurie suggested reaching out the parks and ask if they can host a movie night. • The Student Code of Conduct has not been updated since the update occurred in January. It may be implemented within the new school year. • SWAT members have come up with new innovative ideas for the upcoming school year such as vape lock boxes. • Students have learned what a comprehensive tobacco free policy represents. 	
<p>Performance Measures in Need of Improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplan item: STD/Communicable Diseases/Emergent Threats – By September 30, 2024, the committee will work to collaborate with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to help identify opportunities to educate on the risk of nicotine and tobacco use to kids and expecting mothers. We are trying to engage the school system to help with this item. • Dr. Thurer suggested reaching out to the Dr. Gwynn who would most likely support this cause. • All other items seem to be on track to be completed by September 30, 2024. 	
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World No Tobacco Day – May 31st, 2023 	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned by the Chair, Dr. Richard Thurer at 10:43 am. • The next Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting will be held on Monday, July 31, 2023, at 9:30 am. 	