

**CONSORTIUM FOR A HEALTHIER MIAMI-DADE**

**Tobacco-Free Workgroup**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 31, 2023**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION NEEDED
Members Present	Dr. Richard Thurer, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Dr. Taghrid Asfar, University of Miami Dr. Antonia Leavitt, University of Miami Lourdes Castañeda, University of Miami Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Bill Amodeo, All Star Media John Michael Pierobon, Concerned Citizen Julio Esplugas, City of Hialeah 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 May 22, 2023, were reviewed. No changes to the minutes were noted. Bill Amodeo made the motion to approve the minutes and Laurie Varona seconded the motion. Members of the Tobacco-Free Workgroup unanimously approved the minutes from May 22, 2023.	
Partner Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Michael mentioned the Youth and Young Adult 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.</li> <li>• Bill stated that the World Health Organization (WHO) did not pick our nomination this year because they may have been looking for a different view to the topic so they will try again next year. John Michael and Bill will nominate Dr. Wasim Maziak for next year.</li> <li>• Dr. Asfar presented her research project on “Developing and Testing Health Warning Messages for Electronic Cigarettes.” This is a collaboration between the University of Miami (UM) and Florida International University (FIU). There are</li> </ul>	

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three principal issues that are causing controversy. First, whether e-cigarettes help or undermine quit attempts. Second, whether e-cigarettes are safe. Third, whether e-cigarettes expand the nicotine market by attracting youth who otherwise might never smoke, thus functioning as a gateway to traditional cigarettes. This brought about the question, “How can we communicate e-cigarette risk and safety health profile with consumers?”. Healthcare providers are uncertain on how to communicate in a clinician or public setting. Health Warning labels are required by the FDA that state “This product contains nicotine. Nicotine is an addictive chemical.”. However, this warning label is overseen because of the unlimited ways ENDS are packaged. Consumers have very little contact with the package. Healthcare providers know that ENDS cause much more health concern besides nicotine addiction. Labels have a higher chance of being read if there is a picture along with the warning message. Research was done to develop an evidence-based pictorial health warning labels for e-cigarettes by summarizing evidence about e-cigarette risk and safety health profile, conduct a modified Delphi study with experts in designing effective labels, adapt these labels towards young e-cigarette users by conducting focus groups and experimental studies, and have a public health designer produce final labels. A systematic review was completed, and an abstract was published in Tobacco Control by identifying five key domains related to e-cigarettes: toxicity, health effects, role in smoking cessation, role in transitioning to combustible cigarettes, and the effects of industry marketing claims. There was high-level evidence found that users of ENDS products are exposed to toxic substances and have no idea of the health consequences. The Evidence found was moderate, limited suggestive, and limited not conclusive because ENDS is very new, and the research takes time. E-cigarettes are not FDA approved for tobacco smoking cessation. There was a total of 24 warning labels created. These labels were sent to experts around the world and 12 new warning labels were chosen by them with better worded warning message. These new labels will allow consumers to be educated on the real consequences of using ENDS products.

- Dr. Thurer asked if tobacco companies are still fighting this change and restriction on ENDS products because they are in court now. Dr. Asfar stated that it is not stopping the NIH or the FDA from publishing its findings and placing

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	<p>new rules on warning labels. The United States is lagging on this warning labels on ENDS products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientist are producing strong evidence to make change through the court and through various partners throughout Miami-Dade County.</li> <li>• UM has presented to parents at two private schools because their children are using e-cigarettes and they wanted to know more.</li> <li>• Dr. Asfar is preparing a grant proposal for student cessation access.</li> </ul>	
<p>Executive Board Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Thurer stated that the executive board is trying to finalize the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Consortium. It is projected to be celebrated in sometime this fall either in October or November of 2023. The venue has not been secured yet. Mrs. Weller has retired and Islamiyat Nancy Adebisi is acting interim director. More details will follow.</li> </ul>	
<p>Previous Action Items</p>	<p><b><u>Subcommittee Updates</u></b></p> <p><b>Tobacco-Free Environments (TFE)</b>          Tobacco-Free Environments -- Laurie updated the group about not having a meeting because we did not have a chairperson. John Michael agreed to be the chairperson of TFE and wants to have a meeting as soon as possible to discuss introducing a bill to make our "State" parks and beaches smokefree. One hundred miles of our beaches lie within State parks which include Key Biscayne. Key officials that oversee District 113 or would introduce a bill that would allow partners to educate on the importance of smokefree parks and beaches. Vickie Lopez is a representative of Key Biscayne and Alexis Calatayud is a Florida Senator representing the 38<sup>th</sup> district. Joel Grooters would introduce a new bill that would implement smokefree parks and beaches that belong to the State. The new chair of the Environmental and Natural Resources is Ana Maria Rodriguez which represents Monroe and southern Dade County. They will meet again in January but will start to have committee meetings in November and before that they will introduce their bills in September.</p>	<p>Nikki will reach out Vickie Lopez's office to set up a meeting.</p> <p>Laurie will set up a TFE subcommittee meeting.</p>

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	<p><b>Cessation Access</b>  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. Trying to recruit members that can help with the low-SES population. John Michael suggested talking to construction labor unions. Dr. Asfar stated that the new grant will allow the Safety Manager will be allowed to offer the smoking cessation intervention onsite.</p> <p><b>Tobacco Free Public Spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy &amp; Surveillance Subcommittee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No updates</li> </ul> <p><b>SWAT Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candace Williams stated the Miami-Dade SWAT Chapter completed the 2022-2023 school year and had about 70 graduate out of the SWAT program.</li> <li>• The SWAT club went to Lakeland to attend the statewide meeting, we came back with two youth advocacy board member from Miami-Dade.</li> <li>• Prepping for the new school year and will be conducting a SWAT Advisory training will be held next month.</li> <li>• Working on Annual SWAT training and the logistic part of the event.</li> <li>• Hoping to look at the budget to increase the stipend to SWAT advisors.</li> <li>• SWAT secured another public school as well as a first faith-based organization.</li> </ul>	
<p>Overview of FY23-24 Program Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Point of Sale is focusing more on educating and recruiting members to the workgroup as well as getting additional support for the benefits of retail zoning. In addition, our policy manager at the state encouraged us to ask members to help with the point-of-sales initiative to form a policy and zoning task force for the future. Hialeah and Miami Beach passed new zoning policies.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• K-12 is focused on having a comprehensive smokefree policy as well as a cessation program to help students that are struggling with addiction.</li> <li>• SFMUH will continue to engage property manager to adopt a comprehensive smokefree policy that include Electronic Vaping Products. Laurie will continue to educate property managers of the dangers of secondhand smoke and free cessation access through the Quitline and AHEC.</li> <li>• Tobacco Free Public Spaces will continue to focus on parks and beaches.</li> <li>• Cessation Access will continue to target low SES population in the cluster 13 areas of Miami-Dade County.</li> <li>• Tobacco Free Partnership will focus on increasing active partners.</li> <li>• Students Working Against Tobacco will continue to expand SWAT groups throughout Miami-Dade County.</li> </ul>	
<p>Performance Measures in Need of Improvement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By September 30, 2024, the committee will work to continue utilizing annual survey with a biannual review to ascertain progress and areas of potential growth.</li> <li>• By September 30, 2024, the committee will work to review socioeconomic status (SES) needs index by all 13 clusters and identify areas of need.</li> <li>• All other items seem to be on track to be completed before September 30, 2024.</li> </ul>	
<p>Upcoming Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach Cleanup – September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023</li> <li>• Consortium Miami-Dade County 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – TBA</li> </ul>	
<p>Adjourn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was adjourned by the Chair, Dr. Richard Thurer at 10:55 am.</li> <li>• The next Tobacco-Free Workgroup meeting will be held on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 9:30 am at the Beason Center in Doral, FL Suite 212, and virtually.</li> </ul>	