

Summary for Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County Meeting

October 16, 2025, 8:15am

Quick recap

The Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County held their October meeting to discuss organizational updates, including bylaws revisions and the Beach Sweep committee's successful beach cleanup event. The team reviewed progress on various tobacco control initiatives, including the SWAT program's expansion plans and efforts to implement smoke-free policies in multiple communities. The conversation ended with discussions about upcoming events and training sessions, communications updates, and concerns about industry influence on harm reduction policies, along with plans for future collaborations and enforcement actions.

Next steps

- [Dr. Hummel to revise bylaws with Marcia and send them out before the November meeting for review](#)
- [Diana to take on the secretary position and receive meeting recordings for minutes](#)
- [Dr. Hummel to add Diana's headshot to the website](#)
- [Dr. Hummel to update the subcommittees list in the bylaws](#)
- [Steve to provide updates on the next Beach Sweep event](#)
- [Gary/SWAT team to host the SWAT skate event on November 11th](#)
- [Gary/SWAT team to present PowerPoint training to SWAT clubs during Quarter 2 on November 15th](#)
- [Diana and Brianna to meet with School Board member to gain support for SWAT clubs](#)
- [Diana, Brianna and SWAT clubs to work on creating PSAs with students](#)
- [AHEC team to host the Tobacco Control Forum at NSU on November 7th](#)
- [Andy to conduct training for pharmacists on vaping control on November 2nd](#)
- [Andy to conduct training for iCUBA employees on tobacco cessation on November 20th](#)
- [Communications Committee to update SWAT banners to include vaping information and QR codes](#)
- [Dr. Hummel to reach out to Sheriff Dave Scharf about local enforcement of vaping laws](#)
- [Dr. Hummel to contact ABT about being a guest speaker regarding compliance checks](#)
- [Dr. Hummel to follow up with Representative Chip LaMarca about sponsoring the state parks and beaches bill](#)
- [Communications Committee to prepare the December newsletter](#)

Summary

Tobacco-Free Partnership October Meeting

The Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County held their October meeting, with Dr. Barry Hummel presiding as chair. The group approved the August meeting minutes with a date correction and welcomed Diana Cabot as the new secretary. They discussed upcoming bylaws revisions, which need to include a vision statement and the organization's logo. The Beach Sweep committee reported on a successful beach cleanup event that had 187 volunteers and collected 545 pounds of debris from various schools and organizations.

SWAT Program Expansion Plans

Harrison discussed the progress and plans for the SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) program, highlighting the need to expand to 50 clubs from the current 33. Gary, Brianna and Diana are collaborating to select schools for new SWAT clubs and train students as ambassadors. The program aims to engage middle school students, with plans for PSAs and potential expansion to elementary schools in rural areas. Dr. Thatches (sp) has agreed to fund stipends for advisors out of general funds if the goal of 50 clubs is reached.

Tobacco Control Policy Progress Updates

Harrison also discussed several tobacco control initiatives, including efforts to implement smoke-free policies in Miramar and Margate, with progress being made in connecting with local officials. They highlighted a successful meeting with Cambridge Square Apartments, who plan to become fully smoke-free by January 1st, and discussed upcoming opportunities at the Cooperator Expo in December. The team also reported positive developments in Coral Springs, where city zoning officials showed interest in reducing the number of vaping shops through strategies like limiting license transfers and ensuring proper signage compliance with state law.

Tobacco Prevention Community Progress Updates

The group discussed progress with various communities on implementing tobacco prevention measures, with Hollywood and Carl Springs showing interest but needing follow-up. They reviewed updates from the POS Task Force, including new mobile tobacco retailer findings and plans for a PhotoVoice project in quarter two. The team also discussed potential collaborations with museums and libraries through the new SWAT coordinator, Aruna, and explored ideas for tobacco prevention art contests and displays at community venues like the Panthers Stadium.

Nicotine Addiction Training and Events

Andy discussed upcoming events and training sessions related to tobacco control and nicotine addiction. He announced a forum called "Breaking Free: A Nicotine Addiction and Treatment Forum"

scheduled for November 7th at NSU's data campus, featuring three speakers and offering 3.5 CEs. Andy also shared that NSU's healthcare system has been conducting training sessions for clinicians and support staff, and upcoming events include a virtual training for pharmacists on November 2nd and a session for ICUBA employees on November 20th.

Communications Strategy and Website Updates

Dr. Hummel discussed the timing of newsletters, deciding to release the next one in December instead of October, resulting in five newsletters for the year. He mentioned updates to the website, including fixing the calendar and minutes, and encouraged members to send content for the AHEC tab and to enhance the SWAT section with photos and advisor information. They also discussed updating banners to include QR codes and more accurate language about vaping and tobacco use, noting a significant decline in vaping among high school students from 25% to 10% since the pandemic.

Youth Tobacco Prevention Strategies

Dr. Hummel discussed the declining trend in tobacco use among youth, attributing it to factors like the pandemic, raised age limits, and the presence of SWAT on campuses. He emphasized the need to continue monitoring this trend and highlighted the importance of targeting college students, who are now in a new market for tobacco companies. Dr. Hummel also proposed organizing an art contest for anti-tobacco posters and mentioned plans for a guest speaker, Nevin Zablotsky DMD, to talk about the oral health consequences of vaping in November. He encouraged collaboration with other groups like PAVE and AHEC to enhance their efforts in preventing youth tobacco use.

School Board and Enforcement Updates

Dr. Hummel discussed plans for a school board member to speak at an upcoming meeting to understand their needs and potential recruitment opportunities. He provided updates on a digital recruitment ad, noting impressive metrics but no significant recruitment outcomes yet. Locally, Dr. Hummel highlighted enforcement actions by law enforcement in Port St. Lucie and Claremont against vaping violations, suggesting potential collaboration with local sheriff's offices and state agencies like ABT for compliance checks. Efforts to secure a Republican legislator to sponsor a bill for state parks and beaches were ongoing, with Chip LaMarca and Debbie Mayfield considered as potential sponsors. Dr. Hummel also mentioned the formation of a new Harm Reduction Caucus at the federal level.

Industry Influence on Harm Reduction

Dr. Hummel expressed concerns about industry influence on harm reduction policies, highlighting that nicotine pouches showed a 5% quit rate but were not designed for cessation like FDA-approved products. He criticized the equating of harm reduction with cessation, emphasizing that it's a marketing tactic rather than a quitting aid, and warned about the risks of dual use and population-

level harm. Dr. Hummel also mentioned that warning labels for cigarettes have been delayed due to industry challenges, and he shared a personal loss, noting the passing of a young woman with a genetic predisposition to cancer.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35

Next Meeting: November 20, 2025 at 8:15 AM