

Tobacco Education and Use Prevention Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2025
10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Advisory Council Members Present:	
Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD	Thomas Brandon, PhD
Senator Lisa Carlton	Taghrid Asfar, MD, MSPH
Paul Hull, PhD	Jay Wolfson, DrPH, JD
Ramzi Salloum, PhD, MA, MBA	Maham Akbar, MPP
Wayne McDaniel	Kevin O'Flaherty
Andrew Weatherill	Brenda Olsen
Eliseo Rangel	
Advisory Council Members Absent:	
Jim Howell, MD, MPH	Kimberly Allbritton

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Roll call was performed with the meeting attendance noted above.

Approval of March 2025 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved by all Tobacco Education and Use Prevention Advisory Council members in attendance.

K-12 School Policy Updates

Robert Ostbye, MPH, Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida

The first presentation provided updates on the Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida's comprehensive tobacco free schools policy area. The top priority in this policy area is for school boards to adopt and implement comprehensive tobacco free policies. This means that each school board adopts all 15 comprehensive policy provisions to their policy manuals and that they update or establish new procedure(s) for four implementation practices at every school. Since August 2021, 52 out of 67 school boards have adopted improved tobacco free school policies, this positively impacts 57% of Florida students. Another update pertained to alternative to suspension courses. These courses offer an opportunity for schools to mitigate the negative effects of suspensions on students who are caught using tobacco/nicotine products at school. By taking this course, students learn the facts about these products and the industry behind them, consider the circumstances of use, learn refusal skills, and get help to quit. These courses are available to any school district in Florida at no cost. The course development team is available to provide technical support for districts interested in using the course, and for students working through it. These courses are intended to educate students who have begun experimenting with nicotine products, broadening their understanding of the risks and hopefully influencing quit attempts. However, they are not meant to be used as a cessation resource for students who are trying to quit. Since August 10, 2020, these courses prevented 35,069 days of out-of-school suspension.

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Nicotine Dispensing Device (NDD) Directory

Elizabeth K. Stinson, Florida Attorney General's Office

This presentation provided a background of the NDD directory law that took effect on October 1, 2024. It granted authority to the Attorney General to create a directory listing NDDs that are attractive to minors. It applies to single-use or disposable electronic cigarettes, or devices that use sealed, prefilled, and disposable cartridges of nicotine in a solution. The initial directory was posted on December 30, 2024. There are currently 298 NDDs listed on the directory, more will be added in the future. NDDs become contraband and cannot be sold in the state of Florida 60 days after being added to the directory. Retailers and manufactures that sell these NDDs can face fines, penalties, and other legal action.

Legislative Session Wrap-Up

Ashley Lyerly, MPA, American Lung Association

This presentation provided a status of the tobacco-related bills introduced during the 2025 legislative session. An overview of the Governor's proposed budget for the tobacco program was also provided.

Closing Comments/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting will occur virtually on August 21, 2025.