

**Tobacco Education and Use Prevention Advisory Council
Conference Call and Webinar
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Advisory Council Members Present:	
Melissa Jordan, delegated for Dr. Rivkees	Laura Corbin
Nichole Wilder	Megan Wessel
Peggy Johns	Brenda Olsen
Dr. Jay Wolfson	Dr. Les Beitsch
Dr. Jim Howell	Kevin O’Flaherty
Stacey Gagosian	Dr. Mary Martinasek
Senator Lisa Carlton	William (Wayne) McDaniel
Dr. Adrian Tyndall	

Advisory Council Members Absent:		
Dr. Scott Rivkees	Sheri Raulerson	Kimberly Allbritton
Dr. Stephanie Haridopolos	James Gustafson	

Call to Order and Roll Call

Melissa Jordan called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed members and other attendees. Laura Corbin performed roll call with the meeting attendance noted above.

Approval of October 2020 Minutes

Melissa Jordan opened discussion on the October 2020 meeting minutes and the minutes were approved as written by all Tobacco Education and Use Prevention Advisory Council (TAC) members.

State and Community Intervention Grants

Tera Anderson and Ron Davis – Bureau of Tobacco Free Florida (BTFF)

Presenters shared an overview of accomplishments from community tobacco intervention grants issued during fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016 through FY 2020-2021. The current grantees (41 county health departments and 26 community-based organizations) were awarded a three-year grant with one three-year renewal. After establishing infrastructure, these grantees pursued local tobacco control policy and systems change. A new Request for Application (RFA) was issued for upcoming funding cycle. The primary tasks are not changing in the new funding cycle. The items considered when drafting the new RFA were recent surveillance data, guidance from national experts and independent evaluation findings and the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreement with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). The new RFA required specific policy areas for all counties and optional policy areas for others depending on the size and current status of policy achievement in that county. Required policy areas for all counties are point of sale and comprehensive tobacco free school policy. In select counties, the smokefree multiunit housing policy area will also be required. Optional policy areas include the following: tobacco product promotion, tobacco free campus at higher education, tobacco free parks/beaches/venues, tobacco free organizational policy, and cessation referrals through systems change. BTFF established four new components (health equity projects, staffing minimums, match requirement, and grant cycle length) primarily intended to improve accountability and increase sustainability of local tobacco control work.

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Based on the CDC's requirement to address a community-based disparity the program required health equity projects in seven of the largest counties in Florida: Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach, and Pinellas. Their focus will be on decreasing tobacco consumption among the low socioeconomic status population. BTFF set minimum staff levels based upon county size and award amount. Grantees will be required to demonstrate a seven percent match requirement based on their annual grant award. The match can be cash or in-kind from the applicant or active partner organizations. The new contracts will be for three-years with two three-year renewals based on satisfactory grantee performance and the program's availability of funds. Applications were submitted to the Office of Contracts using their online portal. Based on the formal recommendation of the TAC, independent evaluation services were secured and applications were transmitted directly to the vendor for scoring.

Vendor Application Evaluations

Roger Balettie – ISF

Roger Balettie of ISF presented a project summary of RFA application evaluation including the project management, evaluation teams, data integrity, evaluation process, data gathering and extraction, and a summary of score metrics. ISF assembled three teams of three professionals each to evaluate the grant applications. After completing scoring, they compiled and provided the results to BTFF with the applicant names redacted. Data integrity was maintained by using a secure cloud-based SharePoint with access controlled individual folders for each evaluator. All evaluators signed conflict of interest forms before scoring and all compiled score data were verified against the individual scoresheets for accuracy. Eighty-five applications were received and eighty-one were scored. Four applications did not meet minimum requirements and were not scored. The maximum score possible was 490 points, the range of actual scores was 483-238. Through a formal vote by the TAC, the minimum average score threshold for award was set at seventy-five percent of the total possible points (367.5). For each county, the highest score at or above that threshold will be awarded. The decision is for this and other subsequent rounds of this funding cycle.

Online Statewide Tobacco Education Course

Robert Ostbye – Tobacco Free Florida

This presentation highlighted BTFF efforts to support school district enforcement of youth tobacco and electronic vaping product (EVP) use. The most prevalent model is exclusionary discipline which removes a student from their regular school environment as punishment. Research shows that this type of discipline is ineffective and prone to bias. Alternatives identified in a statewide assessment of schoolwide disciplinary policies are Restorative Justice (RJ) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS). RJ prioritizes repairing the harm done to people over placing blame and dispensing punishment. This model keeps students in school, encourages positive behaviors, and helps repair relationships. PBIS establishes social culture of the school environment and provides individual behavior support/therapy for repeat offenses. According to the assessment, the top three mandatory disciplinary actions in Florida

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schools for first offenses are parental notification, report to law enforcement, and confiscation. The top three options for repeat offenses, are out-of-school suspension, parental notification, and in-school suspension (two out of three are exclusionary disciplines).

The goal of the online tobacco education courses is to reduce youth tobacco and nicotine use through classroom-based prevention education. The course development was sponsored by the Departments of Education and Health and all courses are free to use for districts and students. There are three types of courses available: 1) Professional development for educators (ten, thirty, and sixty-hour courses), 2) Continuing education for school nurses (twenty-hour course), and 3) EVP/tobacco citation courses for middle and high school students. Student courses went live August 10, 2020, and are a substitute for out-of-school suspension. As of February 22, 2021, thirty-two out of sixty-seven school districts use this course in their schools and 1563 students have enrolled. As for the educator/nurse courses, 186 students have enrolled from forty school districts. Evaluation data on student course effectiveness will be available next year.

Closing Comments/Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. TAC meetings for the rest of the fiscal year will be determined by availability collected in a Doodle poll being sent after this meeting.