

Tobacco-Free Collier Partnership Meeting  
December 9, 2009 4:30-5:30  
MINUTES

Present: Rachel Kleist, Jennifer Smith, Paula DiGrigoli, Joe Kemper, Michael DePante, Sue Buntic, Maribel DeArmas, Logan Mohring, Eliseo Rangel, Stacy Revay, Micharon Matthews, Nicole Dorici, Lori Chery, Debbie Walters, Michelle Murphy.

Rachel Kleist and Jennifer Smith opened up the meeting by welcoming all in attendance to Collier's second tobacco-free partnership meeting. There were several new faces to our meeting, so brief introductions were made by all, as well as their general interest and reason for attending.

Micharon Matthews, a senior from Palmetto Ridge High School gave an update on what the SWAT club has been up to. She showed the posters that they made for the Sweet Deception campaign that was launched last month for the Great American Smoke-Out, and talked about the petitions that they had signed supporting the ban of candy flavored tobacco in Collier County. She talked about how it can be hard to tell the difference between candy and candy-flavored tobacco products due to the packaging and colors that Big Tobacco use to lure in youth.

Logan Mohring, a student at Edison College gave an update on the STRIKE club, which is the college aged version of SWAT clubs. Logan spoke about their recent Great American Smoke Out activity. In honor of the Great American Smoke-Out the STRIKE members had a table in the courtyard advertising "Go Cold Turkey" which was an opportunity for students to exchange their tobacco products for a Subway sandwich. Logan also spoke about Big Tobacco's new target which is the college aged student, luring them in by advertising that smoking can reduce stress.

Michelle Murphy, NCH nurse spoke about NCH's recent tobacco-free campus policy which was put in place on November 19<sup>th</sup>, for the Great American Smoke-Out. Michelle gave great insight on the successes and pit-falls that were experienced through out the process, and that still exist. She gave an overview on the process from start to finish, including changes in insurance plans for employees, campus signage, and brochures. She told stories of how patients and employees reacted to the new policy change. She also informed the partnership that Nicotine Replacement Therapy was now available in the Gift Shop on both campuses.

Michael DePante also spoke briefly about Physician Regional Hospital going tobacco-free campus as well. He informed the partnership that things were going well, however there have been some circumstances where a DR's note permitted a patient to smoke.

Paula DiGrigoli re-introduced herself to the partnership. Paula spoke briefly about the history of the partnership and what she experienced throughout the years being apart of it. She also spoke about our future plans to "Educate to Legislate" which will include the partnership members and students in SWAT and STRIKE clubs to approach the Board of County Commissioners with our request to ban candy flavored tobacco products. She also spoke about our desire to create a Tobacco-Free Collier brochure that will promote the partnership, while also highlighted our mission & goals. This brochure will also be presented to the Board of County Commissioners. It is our goal to present this brochure in January, 2010.

Paula DiGrigoli also briefly explained the need for partnership training through the form of a webinar. The webinar will be a training on the candy-flavored tobacco products on the shelves of Collier County. This webinar will be sent via e-mail to all partnership members, followed by three short questions. After viewing the webinar and answering the questions, the partnership members will receive an environmentally friendly [healthycollier.org](http://healthycollier.org) bag that will promote our website, in which there is a section for the partnership.

The next meeting was set for March 3, 2010.

