



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Mississippi Tobacco Control Advisory Council (TCAC) Meeting  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**May 14, 2021**  
**11am -12:30pm**  
**Minutes**

<b>Chairman:</b>	Nelson Atehortua	<b>Recorder:</b>	Reeshemah Allen
<b>Distribution List:</b>	Entire TCAC Membership		

	Attended	Absent	Representative Attended (list name)
Nelson Atehortua De La Pena, PhD, Chair	X		
Robert “Bob” K. Collins, MD		X	
Winston Choi, PhD		X	
Gena Vail, CFNP		X	
Felicia Gavin, PhD		X	
Tom Payne, PhD		X	
Donna Antoine-LaVigne, PhD, MSEd, MPH		X	
Krista Guynes, MSW, LCSW		X	
Richard Friedman, MD		X	
Richard Summers, MD		X	
Tommy Goodwin, JD	X		Avery Lee
MEETING REPRESENTATIVE			
Senator Nicole Boyd		X	

Meeting Called to Order: 11:02 a.m.
Introductory remarks:
Updates (MSDH):
<p>Updates (Data): Presentation for Dr. Robert McMillen.            Mississippi ‘s Rankings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population covered by 100% smoke free laws: 35<sup>th</sup> at 31.3%</li> <li>• Current cigarette smoking among high school students (2019 YRBS): 17<sup>th</sup> at 6.6%</li> <li>• Current cigarette smoking among adults (2019 BRFSS): 5<sup>th</sup> at 20.4%</li> <li>• Per capita cigarette consumption (2018): 9<sup>th</sup> at 56.3</li> <li>• State cigarette excise tax (2021): 39<sup>th</sup> at \$0.68</li> <li>• Average is \$1.91, highest is \$4.35</li> <li>• 36% of the Mississippi population is protected by a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance</li> <li>• 20.4% of Mississippi adults are current smokers</li> </ul> <p>The disturbing news is the rise of e-cigarette used among teens and young adults. From 2010 to 2019, high school student use of commercial tobacco use declined from 19.7% to 6.5% but use of the e-cigarette use dramatically increase 1.2% to 21.3%. This due to the development of the pod-</p>

based and disposable e-cigarettes that use flavors that appeal to this demographic. Also, the ease of purchasing the components via the internet.  
Tobacco control efforts are proven to be successful in the 18-24 age range as teens enter into adulthood least like to be smokers. The data shows that men are more like to smoke than women. The more education a person has decreases the likelihood of that person to smoke.

Updates (Partners): Legislative Session ended. Speaker Gunn introduced a Tax reform to cut Income Tax and Grocery Tax by increasing cigarette tax by \$0.50; the tax increase was not enough to have a public impact, but it would be enough to cover the gap from the other cuts. Nevertheless, the bill did not pass. The Legislative partners will work to educate the tax committee and legislators between now and January about the importance of a higher cigarette tax to have a public health impact.  
American Cancer Society partner is working with in Louisiana. She is working with issues that MS has yet to encounter. Like the tobacco industry is working to exclude tobacco products from the excise tax, their work with pre-emption and making sure that marijuana is treated like cigarettes and included in policies and ordinances at the state and local levels.

Updates (Other):

Old Business: no

Approval of Previous Minutes (Yes or No – List any Revisions): no

Motions (List the Motion and the individual who made the motion):

Seconding of Motions (List the individual who seconded the motion):

Votes (In Favor of Or Opposed):

New Business:

Next Meeting: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Adjourned (List Time):

Comments: A letter will be draft to the council by the chair to discuss the importance of attendance and other ways to the council can engage in the effort tobacco control efforts in MS.