

*“Empowering Merced County residents to achieve a healthier lifestyle and tobacco-free environments”*



## **Merced County ACCT Coalition**

### **Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

**When:** September 10, 2019 | 11:00AM – 1:00PM  
**Location:** MCOE: Early Education Department  
Room B4: 1850 Wardrobe Ave. Merced CA, 95341  
**Attendees:** 24 Attendees

#### **Coalition Chairperson**

Salvador Vazquez: MCOE – Migrant Education Program (CC)

#### **Coalition Vice-Chairperson**

Morelia Marines: CHC – Unidos Por Salud project (CVC)

#### **TRL & Flavored Tobacco Subcommittee Lead**

Robin Siminoff: Merced County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (TRLSL)

#### **Media Subcommittee Lead**

Currently Vacant

#### **Outreach & Recruitment Subcommittee Lead**

Currently Vacant

#### **Let's Clear the Air Subcommittee Lead**

Currently Vacant

### **Attendance**

#### **Presenters (1)**

Joe Heim: Los Banos Parks & Recreation – Operations Manager

#### **Merced County Tobacco Control Program (MCTCP) Staff Present (4)**

Evi Hernandez: Project Director (PD)

Patrik White: Youth Coordinator (YC)

Stephanie Gonzalez: Program Manager (PM)

Maria Galvan: Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC)

#### **Members Present (15)**

Alina Torres: CHC – API PACT, Amalia Madrigal Hernandez: Merced County Department of Public Health, Amanda Punzalan: UC Merced, Belle M. Vallador: Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition, Brittany Rangel: CHC – MCTCP Intern, Helidee Milan-Govea: Livingston Community Health, Jailene Gutierrez: Congressman Jim Costa representative, Marilyn Mochel: Health Equity 4 All, Morelia Marines: CHC – Unidos Por Salud project, Nancy Tapia: Merced County Department of Public Health, Robin Siminoff: Merced County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services, Salvador Vazquez: MCOE: Migrant Education Program, Steve Roussos: Alliance to Community Research and Development, Sue Emanivong: Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition, Tashelle Wright: UC Merced.

#### **Guests Present (4)**

Alice Kieffer: Castle Family Health Centers, Cha See: American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network, Chelsea Aivazian: American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network, Christy Celis: CYC.

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Minutes

1. **Welcome, Introductions & Group Agreements Drafting**

Need ideas on how to manage stress; here are some ways the ACCT Coalition members deal with their stress:

<i>Walking</i>	<i>exercise</i>	<i>eating</i>	<i>counselor</i>	<i>watch comedies</i>	<i>travel</i>	<i>focus on breathing &amp;</i>
<i>stretching</i>		<i>yoga</i>	<i>organizing</i>	<i>take a day off</i>	<i>pray</i>	<i>sports</i>
	<i>family time</i>		<i>pet time</i>	<i>outdoor activities</i>	<i>long drives</i>	

Group agreements were discussed and drafted during this meeting. Future application and editing can be discussed in later quarterly meetings. For complete notes on this activity please visit the coalition webpage: [acctcoalition.org](http://acctcoalition.org) or request the notes via email at: [acctcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:acctcoalition@gmail.com)

2. **Meeting Call to Order: Approval of Minutes**

1<sup>st</sup> motion: Patient Service Supervisor – Livingston Health Center

2<sup>nd</sup> motion: Prevention Worker – Merced County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Unanimous vote: Meeting moves forward

Time: 11:29AM

3. **Merced County Tobacco Control Program (MCTCP) - Updates by Program Manager (PM)**

Provided brief updates on the 5 objectives MCTCP is working on

- A. TRL in the city of Atwater with flavors provision
  - a) After city council meeting presentation provided by MCTCP – it has been difficult to meet with council members. MCTCP would greatly appreciate if any coalition members that have connections would help in setting up a meeting with any of the council members in Atwater. The meetings would be a follow-up on a TRL policy in Atwater
- B. Smoke-free public outdoor areas in the city of Los Banos
  - a) August 21; MCTCP presented to Los Banos city council during public comment with a youth coalition member. Waiting to be added to the agenda for a future city council meeting. Meeting with the City Manager on Thursday 9/12 to discuss smoke-free public outdoor areas and getting on the agenda
- C. Youth Coalition
  - a) Youth coalition members attended two conferences during the summer break: 3 members attended the CYAN Leadership Youth conference and 7 members attended the Youth Leadership Summit
  - b) Youth recognition event hosted in Los Banos– partnership between MCTCP & Unidos Por Salud Project: Los Banos Mayor stopped by to talk to the youth and show his support
  - c) New youth coalition! Starting the month of September there is now an established youth coalition in the city of Atwater with Valley Community Schools’ leadership group youth. Will also be working with LB valley school youth once a month on a special project.
- D. Working with the community & the Adult Coalition
  - a) First TRL & Flavored Tobacco subcommittee meeting August 15; next meeting: September 19<sup>th</sup> in Atwater
  - b) Reminder to sign up for a subcommittee – TRL, Let’s Clear the Air, Outreach & Recruitment, and Media
  - c) Coalition webpage up, running, and current. For all coalition information visit: [acctcoalition.org](http://acctcoalition.org)
  - d) Newsletter will be distributed September 27<sup>th</sup>; to add a piece to the newsletter contact CEC no later than September 20<sup>th</sup>
- E. MCDPH – HERE subcontract

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**4. Merced County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) - Updates by Health Education Specialist (HES)**

- A. The MCDPH received the Health Equity in the Retail Environment (**HERE**) subcontract under CHC-MCTCP
  - a) Working on tobacco retail license (TRL) in Merced from April 2019 – July 2021
- B. Strategic planning session held July 31<sup>st</sup> – if anyone can assist in setting up meetings with Merced City council please contact HES
- C. Conducting Public Opinion Polls: HES can email these to anyone interested in assisting with the POP’s
- D. Recruiting youth 13-18yrs old for youth coalition

**Additional details provided by CHC – Senior Director of Program Services:**

- A. Each county is required to have a local lead agency (LLA); typically the public health departments hold this title MCDPH lost the grant in 2009, CHC applied and was given the grant in 2010
  - b) In 2016 previous MCDPH administration requested to be the LLA again; it was decided that MCDPH be given the opportunity to once again be the LLA come July 2021
  - c) Transition plan: CHC is helping the MCDPH prepare so that by July 2021 the DPH can take on the LLA role once again

**5. TRL & Flavored Tobacco subcommittee updates provided by Lead**

- A. Hosted the first meeting August 15<sup>th</sup> – 10 members attended - will be meeting on a monthly basis (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month)
- B. Will be interchanging meeting locations between Merced and Atwater due to having the same end goal for both cities (TRL with flavors provision)
  - a) Anyone interested in forming part of this coalition please contact the Lead at [acctcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:acctcoalition@gmail.com)

**6. Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community Campaign – Updates**

Collected 160 observational surveys in partnership with Merced County Behavioral Health, Livingston Community Health, ACCT Coalition and ACRD

- a) Have begun collecting Public Opinion Polls within Merced County; if you are interested in assisting with collection of these POP’s please contact [mctcp@healthcollaborative.org](mailto:mctcp@healthcollaborative.org) for more information, resources and training
- b) Key Informant Interviews will be conducted as well – training will take place; coalition members will be given additional details for the training once date and time is established
- c) Central valley conference will take place next year to present the data collected for the HSHC Campaign

**7. Continuing the Momentum – open discussion/activity provided by ACCT Coalition Chair**

The ACCT Coalition chair facilitated this activity creating a space for open discussion where coalition members could share any constructive criticism and strengths they believe they, as coalition members, should be aware of/ work on or the coalition as a whole. The goal of this activity was for the opportunity to learn and grow

- a) Strengths/constructive boxes were passed around for those that did not feel comfortable sharing their input out loud

Top “strength” comment mentioned by coalition members was: Program staff is doing a great job at leading and communicating with coalition members.

Top “constructive” comment mentioned by coalition members was: add a section within the meeting agenda where other tobacco control programs can update the group further on their work

\* Full notes can be found on the coalition webpage: [acctcoalition.org](http://acctcoalition.org)

**8. Presentation: Tobacco Litter & the Environment provided by Los Banos Parks & Rec Operations Manager (OM)**

Their mission statement: “creating community through people, parks, and programs”

- A. Parks: recently completed their soccer field
  - a. Trying to create healthy green spaces
  - b. Currently no tobacco free policies in the city of Los Banos; OM provided statistics where it has been shown that tobacco bans have been proven effective in terms of deterrence
  - c. 87% of smokers start before the age of 18 – surgeon general report
    - i. Parks and recreation is mostly visited/used by youth and therefore he deemed it important to minimize/ban tobacco use in these areas
- B. Recreation: through measure H they will be doubling the recreation side – will be adding youth sports such as volleyball. Will be adding events such as Easter events, Big Truck Days, etc.
- C. Creating healthy experiences in parks (people come to relieve stress) showcases why it is importance for parks to ban tobacco use, this including vaping
- D. Their events are publish on their Facebook page and through cityoflosbanos.org

He expressed his support for our efforts in Los Banos and stated he would like to partner with us on these efforts

**10. Coalition Members: Updates**

**Health Equity 4 All – Director: brief announcement**

- a) The work that the ACCT Coalition is doing is a health equity issue. There is great representation of the Health Equity 4 All coalition within this coalition and if all coalitions know about each other we can work together and support each other; that is really important

**UC Merced – Health Educator: Update**

- a) Around 25 signs were replaced at UC Merced that were not up to code. They now have updated policy with “no smoking” instead of “no smoking within 25 ft”

**Merced County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services – Prevention Worker: Update**

- a) Substance abuse & prevention is working on their five year strategic plan. Going out to the community to determine what groups to work with; they’ve already identified certain groups through the healthy kids survey

**Congressman Jim Costa Representative: Announcement**

- a) If coalition members ever want to meet with the congressman or any of his representatives; office walk-ins are welcomed in the Merced office. Give them a call or email and they set something up

**American Cancer Society: Cancer Action Network – Project Director & Community Engagement Manager: Update**

- a) About a month ago they did a health fair outreach in Gustine; a lot of Patterson residents attended. They received some sign-ups to volunteer and conduct POP’s; the team was heading their after for the POP’s.
- b) Working under a rural grant initiative from CTCP: working on smoke-free multiunit housing, smoke-free health care facilities, and smoke-free community colleges and/or trade school campuses

**Healthy House Within A MATCH Coalition: Update**

- a) Working on homelessness, elder abuse and neglect, at-risk of homelessness, self-neglect and SSI disability: abandonment, no form of income, financial exploitation. If you know of anyone that might need help or for more information please contact sue@healthyhouse.org

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- b) Working with another grant with UC Merced on tobacco research and development, and on an oral health program as well with the Asian American Advancing Justice from L.A.
- c) Question for MCTCP program staff: are there flyers or material for the coalition and program that can be given to coalition members to hand-out at community events? Yes, the program brochure is finalized and the coalition brochure is soon to be finalized as well; these can be distributed to coalition members upon request. If any coalition members would like FREE educational material, visit: [cyanonline.org](http://cyanonline.org)

**MCOE: Migrant Education Program: Update**

- a) BHW event in October – will be sending out a list of the activities soon
- b) Will be having events in Dos Palos, Los Banos, Planada, Winton, Merced, Santa Nella & Livingston

**Unidos Por Salud Project: Update**

- a) Will be collecting POP's in Dos Palos event for HSHC Campaign
- b) September 5<sup>th</sup>, will be presenting to the board of education for Dos Palos with their youth coalition

**Livingston Community Health – Patient Services Supervisor: Announcement**

- a) Livingston will be having their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Young Men's Conference at Livingston Middle: September 28<sup>th</sup> from 7am-2:30pm. If you work with any elementary or middle school students or haven any relatives, send them an invitation. This event is to empower students throughout Merced County to pursue their careers
- b) Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup>: 5-9pm– City of Livingston, Livingston Community Health & Merced BHW will be partnering to provide health services and activities – to table or for more info contact: [hgoeva@visitlch.org](mailto:hgoeva@visitlch.org)

**UC Merced Graduate Student: Announcement**

- a) Merced, Stanislaus or Madera County: if anyone is interested in doing an interview about oral health and tobacco use, please contact [wright.tashelle@gmail.com](mailto:wright.tashelle@gmail.com). Gift cards will be provided.

**Castle Family Health Centers: Update**

- a) Will be having their first meeting on Thursday: planning health fair at their new Winton clinic – part of BHW on October 26<sup>th</sup> for more information please call: (209)357-7755

**Merced County Department of Public Health: Update**

- a) Received funding through the department of Justice to do enforcement for retailers – partnering with the sheriff's department to do sting operations and a media campaign
  - a. They had their 1<sup>st</sup> training 9/7/19 where 6 youth and 2 sheriffs attended
  - b. Media campaign around vaping – if any coalition members would like to send any op-eds or participate please contact: [Amalia.mhernandez@countyofmerced.com](mailto:Amalia.mhernandez@countyofmerced.com)

**API – PACT: Update**

- a) Continuing with their youth coalition; 6 students that are now in high school – 4 of them went to camp
- b) Provided a presentation for Livingston City Council las week (week of 9/2-9/6)

**Meeting Adjourn**

Time: 1:08pm