



Meeting Minutes



Meeting Title:	Tobacco Control Advisory Council Meeting	
Meeting Location:	Zoom	
Meeting Date:	Tuesday, November 14, 2023	
Time:	9:00 am - 10:30 am	
Council Attendees:	Jonathan Hontzas, NP, Chair Dr. Chawla L. Mason Dr. Mary Shaw Dr. Rodney Rocconi Gena Vail, NP Caroline Petty Dr. Matthew Wesson Dr. Winston Choi Senator Nicole Boyd	
Non-Council Attendees:	Sharonda Banks Vickie Tucker Tiffany Johnson Shelethia Whisenton Gwyneth O'Quine Darrius Moore Timberlyn Roby Kenneth Judie Courtney Johnson Ashley McKenzie Amy Ellis Emily McClelland Kaylah Stewart Kimberly Hughes Rhonda Shirley Nell Valentine Robert McMillen Rochelle Thompson Sandra Shelson	



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	AGENDA TOPIC	NOTES
I	Introductory Remarks	The MS TCAC Meeting began at 9:00 a.m. and was presided over by Jonathan Hontzas, Chair. Sharonda Banks, MSDH OTC officially welcomed the council and attendees.
II	Legislative Updates Advocacy Partners	Rhonda Shirley, The Partnership for a Healthy MS, provided an update on the recent general elections. All incumbent statewide elected officials won re-election campaigns. The legislators will welcome thirty-two new members: twenty-six to the House and six members to the state Senate. The upcoming legislative session will stand 125 days versus 90 days because it's the first year of a four-year term. Sessions will begin on January 2, 2024, at noon and end on May 5, 2024. This extra time will allow the new legislators to connect with their colleagues and legislative staff acclimatize themselves to the intricacies of the legislative process and identify resources to help them in their new roles. Kimberly Hughes, The American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network, reported that they are still working on the Smoke-Free Campaign for Ocean Springs. This is the second time working to pass an ordinance in Ocean Springs. They are working to garner more support to assist with passage. There are conversations in Greenville, MS about working to build support to pass an ordinance in Greenville that includes two casinos. They are looking to provide support and education to the community around the benefits of smoke-free casinos (workplaces, bars, and casinos) and improved health outcomes, including casino employees. The advocacy partners drafted a letter of support to the Attorney General, encouraging the use of some of the Juul settlement money toward tobacco control prevention funding. They've also been working with the division of Medicaid on strategies to provide more comprehensive cessation coverage for beneficiaries.
III	Data Update Dr. Robert McMillen Social Climate Survey MSU Social Science Research Group	Per the most recent Social Climate Survey data, MS ranks fourth in youth smoking rates according to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) at 5.9% of high school students for 30-day cigarette smoking, and fourth in adult smoking according to BRFSS at 19.6%. MS ranks high in per capita consumption of cigarettes. The state's cigarette tax is low compared to other states, we are 39 th at \$0.68, while the national average is \$1.93, and the highest is New York at \$5.35. According to American Non-Smokers Rights, MS ranks 37 th in protecting the population in the workplace, restaurants, bars, etc. MS has seen success in smoke-free ordinances. Although there is no



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		statewide ordinance, 186 communities in MS have passed comprehensive smoke-free ordinances for worksites, restaurants, offices, and bars, protecting about 37% of MS's population. There are a handful of partial ordinances as well. MS has made incredible progress in driving down the cigarette smoking rate in high school. Cigar and smokeless rates are declining are down as well. E-cigarette use has been a struggle. We are beginning to see small, but sustained declines in adult smoking rates. This is driven by the reductions in young adults smoking. 25 – 35-year-olds would've been 14 years of age around the time tobacco control started in 1998 statewide. It can't be proved by the data, but it's consistent with the hypothesis, looking at the downward trend. We are seeing reductions in lung cancer; there has been a steady decline. The mortality rate from lung cancer is declining as well. Strong support, almost 2/3 of adults in MS support a statewide comprehensive smoke-free law that includes casinos, bars, restaurants, all worksites, and public buildings; 1/3 of smokers support this also. MSU SSRC is currently in the field with the 2023 Social Climate Survey. As of now, over 300 surveys have been completed, and all results should be in by the time we reconvene.
IV	Update: Cessation Benefits for Medicaid Beneficiaries Sharonda Banks Office of Tobacco Control	Sharonda Banks provided an overview of the current MS Division of Medicaid cessation coverage. The OTC partners with the MS Department of Medicaid and its Managed Care Organizations (United Healthcare, Molina, and Centene) to build strategies to increase cessation treatment engagement for Medicaid beneficiaries. Medicaid cessation benefits were also discussed (See notes): • All smoking cessation products DO count toward the six (6) prescription per month limit. • Nicotine replacement products which are classified as Over the Counter 'OTC' will NOT count toward the 2 brand per month limit. • Nicotine replacement products which are classified as 'Legend' with a Preferred status on the Preferred Drug List 'PDL' will NOT count toward the 2 Brand per month limit. • Six (6) prescription drugs dispensed per month, with no more than two (2) brand name (single source or innovator multiple source drug if less expensive than the generic equivalent) drugs per month.



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		✓ Preferred brand drugs listed on the Universal Preferred Drug List (PDL) do not count toward the two (2) brand limit, and ✓ Over the counter (OTC) drugs prescribed by a physician listed on the Division of Medicaid's Over the Counter drugs Preferred Drug List do not count toward the two (2) brand limit. • Prescription drugs dispensed to institutionalized long-term care beneficiaries are exempt from the monthly service limit. • Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) eligible beneficiaries may receive more than the six (6) prescription drugs or two (2) brands, if deemed medically necessary, through expanded EPSDT services. • Copays have been eliminated for all Medicaid services effective May 1, 2023 • Proposed: Extend cessation counseling coverage to all Medicaid beneficiaries for 12 sessions per year. If approved, this will become effective July 1, 2023. • Proposed: Language was introduced in June 2023 to exclude Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) from the six (6) per-month allowance.
V	Business (Old)	The council voted and approved meeting minutes for the following meeting date(s): May 9, 2023
VI	Business (New)	The council welcomed two new members, Dr. Rodney Rocconi (UMMC) and Ms. Caroline Petty (MSDH). MSDH: OTC 5-Year Strategic Plan (Suggestions from the Council: • Tax Vaping Products • Increase Cigarette Tax • Promote smokefree communities
VII	Closing Remarks/Comments/Feedback	The evaluation link was provided via a QR code to participants during the meeting for completion.
VIII	Adjourn	All agenda items were addressed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



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ACTION ITEMS

#	Step	Person (s) Responsible	Due Date
1	Email a “save the date” for the next meeting.	Sharonda Banks	11/21/2023
2	Email meeting minutes to council members.	Sharonda Banks	11/21/2023
3	Follow-up with Medicaid Partners re: Cessation counseling being extended to all populations for 12 sessions per year.	Sharonda Banks	12/4/2023



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Instructions for Form 1075, Meeting Notes

Revision Date, 1/22/18

Purpose: The MSDH Meeting Minutes are optional and not mandated for use; however, it is strongly recommended to meet adequate documentation standards as a PHAB accredited agency. The form serves as strong documentation that a meeting took place and what was discussed. This documentation is particularly important for continuing accreditation.

Instructions: Prior to the meeting, prepare the agenda with topics to be discussed and times for discussion. Meeting Title, Location, Date and Time should match what is listed on the Meeting Agenda (Form 1074). Agenda topics should also be listed in the table provided, and corresponding discussion and/or decisions made should be entered into the notes section of the table. The Action Items table should be completed to list actions to be taken after the meeting, as well as who is responsible for their completion and any relevant deadlines associated. There is space in the footer for the name of the person who compiled the minutes and submitted them to the group for review and approval.

Office Mechanics and Filing: To be determined by meeting purpose and topics discussed.

Retention Period: To be determined by meeting purpose and topics discussed.