

Meeting Dates, Time and Location

**1st Monday of the month
4:00-5:00 PM
1st floor Community Room
West Community Library,
750 66th Street North,
St. Petersburg**

Members Organizations

All Children's Hospital
American Cancer Society
American Lung Association of Florida
Family Resources, Inc.
Gulfcoast North AHEC
Healthy Start Coalition of Pinellas, Inc.
LiveFree! Coalition of Pinellas County
Morton Plant Lung Center
Operation PAR
Pinellas County Health Dept.
Pinellas County Schools
Residents of Pinellas County
Sumos Thai Café
Suncoast Health Council, Inc.

Our Mission

TO create a tobacco-free atmosphere for Pinellas County and to assist Florida in doing the same for residents of the state;

TO improve the health of Pinellas County residents and all Floridians by significantly reducing tobacco use;

TO eliminate the initiation of the use of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco among young people;

TO educate the public on all health issues as they relate to tobacco;

and

TO act as an advocate for positive reform.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Tobacco-Free Coalition of Pinellas County, please contact:
Deborah Shaffer

Tobacco Program Manager
Pinellas County Health Department
205 Dr. M. L. King Jr. Street, N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-6947
Deborah_Shaffer@doh.state.fl.us



COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY BY WORKING TO REDUCE TOBACCO USE AND EXPOSURE TO DEADLY SECONDHAND SMOKE

Tobacco-Free Coalition of Pinellas County

Tel: 727-824-6947

Who we are

The **Tobacco-Free Coalition** of Pinellas County is a membership group of local adults and youth, dedicated to ending tobacco use and creating a tobacco free environment .

The Coalition is recognized by the State of Florida as the leading group to promote tobacco free policies in Pinellas County. Our programs are designed to reduce youth tobacco use, reduce exposure to secondhand smoke and provide tobacco cessation resources to people who wish to quit.



Established in 1998 we began as a group working to bring awareness to the way Big Tobacco was luring our teens. Through the years our purpose and goals have expanded to include identifying resources to assist smokers looking to quit, as well as educating the community on the dangerous effects of secondhand smoke. Beginning in 2008 we have taken a more significant role in advocating for positive reform in the area of tobacco related policies at the local and state level.

What we do

Adults

The Coalition serves the **adult** community, organizing secondhand smoke campaigns such as Smoke Free Homes and Smoke Free Cars to encourage families in Pinellas to make their environments smoke free havens. We work with local employers to reduce smoking among their employees as well assisting municipalities to establish tobacco-free zones in parks, beaches and recreation areas. Our goal is to expand this effort, working within the community to initiate tobacco-free apartment complexes, hospitals and churches throughout the county.



Youth and Young Adult

The Coalition serves the **youth** community through Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT). Youth receive training to be leaders, educating their peers and advocating to local decision makers through numerous programs and activities. Area teens, teachers and local service providers organize a message that is successful in making reducing the number of youth who start smoking. Currently we are working with Pinellas County Schools to assess their tobacco related policies. The coalition provides assistance and support to local colleges, such as Eckerd College and USF St. Pete in establishing tobacco-free campuses.



Why we do it

Tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke in Pinellas County is a local concern.

- In 2008, **7.9%** of middle school students and **24.5%** of high school students reported they had used tobacco in the last 30 days.
- Nearly **18%** of Pinellas County adults are smokers.
- In 2007, **43.6%** of Pinellas County smokers attempted to quit.
- More than **60%** of our youth face exposure to second hand smoke.
- Nearly **one out of every five adults** is exposed to secondhand smoke in the car.
- In the 2008 International Coastal Cleanup, cigarette filters, cigar tips and tobacco packaging accounted for **33%** of the debris found in Florida.
- Cigarette butts/filters were the **#1 type** of marine debris and account for twice as much debris as any other single category.
- In Florida, **20%** of all home fires are started by smoking, causing 800 deaths and 3,000 injuries a year.

