



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

Community Meeting Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer James-Mesloh
Email: Jennifer_James-Mesloh@doh.state.fl.us
Phone: (239) 332-9561 - office
Phone: (850) 519-5728 - cell

Tobacco-Free Lee Coalition **- A community organizational meeting -**

Fort Myers, FL- The Tobacco-Free Lee Coalition brings together the student and adult community, business and faith leaders to cut tobacco-use rates. The monthly organizational meeting is Tuesday, March 23, 2010 from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm at Bishop Verot High School at 5598 Sunrise Drive, Ft. Myers, FL. Agenda items for discussion will include social norming in the Lee County School District and increased funding for tobacco compliance investigations.

“The Tobacco-Free initiative is a community partnership that brings together organizational resources to decrease the rate of smokers in Lee County. We truly want to lower the numbers of youth who are starting smoking and because more women than men smoke in Lee County, the women’s issues are certainly of concern,” said Brendan Donohue, tobacco program specialist, Lee County Health Department.

Among the coalition’s top goals will be to partner with the health care community to target pregnant women with a tobacco cessation intervention at every prenatal care visit and make sure they know about resources to help them quit. Also, the coalition wants to work toward enacting litter laws to curtail the cigarette butts collecting on county streets and beaches as well as pushing toward making all county buildings tobacco-free. Exact plans and strategies are being developed at coalition meetings. The public is welcome at all coalition meetings.

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Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A. • Director
3920 Michigan Avenue • Fort Myers, FL • 33916
www.leechd.com

