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## ***Community Meeting Announcement***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Tobacco-Free Lee Coalition**

***- Policy changes and best practices are June meeting focus -***

**Fort Myers, FL-** Over the past year the Tobacco-Free Lee Coalition has been instrumental in bringing about policy change through grass roots involvement from leaders within the student, business, health and faith communities to cut tobacco-use rates. This month's gathering will be a working meeting with snacks, refreshments and lunch provided. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2010 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Lee County Health Department, Joseph P. D'Alessandro Building, 2295 Victoria Ave, Fort Myers.

Influencing tobacco policy changes and how to implement "best practices" in this area will be the focus of June's meeting by targeting the following issues:

- Multi-unit dwellings
- Candy flavored tobacco products being marketed to youth
- Model K-12 school tobacco policy
- Best practices for implementing tobacco policy change

"The Tobacco-Free Lee Coalition is a community partnership that brings together organizational resources to decrease the rate of smokers in Lee County. The primary objectives of the coalition are to decrease the numbers of youth using tobacco as well as decrease the numbers of pregnant women who are lighting up. Since 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.

Additional objectives of the coalition are to work toward making all county buildings tobacco-free. Also, second-hand smoke is a major health hazard in multi-use dwellings since 60% of the smoke from an individual cigarette travels to the neighbors' dwellings. Thus, plans and strategies are being developed at coalition meetings to curb the rate of smoking in these buildings. The public is welcome at all coalition meetings.

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