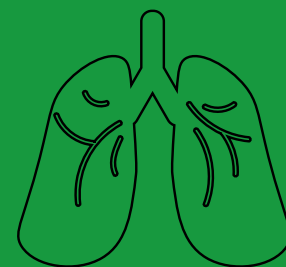


PROJECT ACTION

WELCOME BACK TO OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!

Project ACTION (Alliances to Combat Tobacco In Organizations Now) is an evidence-based program focused on building tobacco control and treatment capacity in healthcare and community resource centers serving LGBTQIA+ communities across Texas. In this issue, you will find updates from our project partners, a scholarship opportunity to become a tobacco treatment specialist, quit plan assistance, and more!



PARTNER UPDATES

Coastal Bend Pride Center

Staff at Coastal Bend Pride Center recently completed a tobacco dependence training where they learned more about the harms of tobacco use and brief interventions to support patient quit attempts! The team is working diligently to finalize their tobacco-free workplace policy, as well as procedures to screen patients for tobacco use and provide them with nicotine replacement therapy. As part of our program, they've also received customized health education materials specifically focused on the dangers of smoking within LGBTQIA+ communities! To raise awareness for their impending tobacco-free policy, Coastal Bend Pride Center will soon be displaying tobacco-free signage both inside and outside of their center. In addition, we're collaborating with an employee to complete a train-the-trainer program, helping them build in-house tobacco training expertise.

Coastal Bend Pride Center is making incredible progress, and we can't wait to share more updates as they continue their impactful journey!

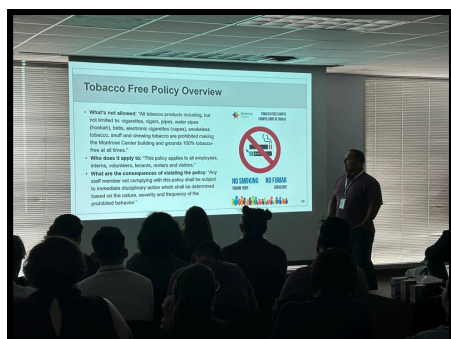


The Montrose Center

The Montrose Center's staff also recently completed a tobacco dependence training, where they deepened their understanding of the harms of tobacco use and learned effective strategies for supporting patients during quit attempts! Our Program Champion, Jaymie Mielke Quiroz, is now collaborating closely with our Health Education Specialist, Mikal Zere, to update and enhance their tobacco-free workplace policy, as well as preparing for distribution of nicotine replacement therapy to their patients and employees.

In October, two employees at The Montrose Center, Steven Sosa and Allen Barrett, completed our [Train-the-Trainer program](#) to build in-house tobacco training expertise. Steven and Allen worked closely with Mikal to co-present a tobacco training (pictured below) to The Montrose Center staff, practicing their parts of the presentation multiple times to empower them with the expertise to independently lead future sessions.

We are so proud of The Montrose Center's ongoing commitment to creating a healthier, tobacco-free environment. Stay tuned for more updates from The Montrose Center as we continue to support their impactful work!



Pictured (left to right): Steven Sosa presenting; Allen Barrett presenting; (in order from left to right) Mikal Zere, Allen Barrett, Steven Sosa, Kirby Gray, and our former Senior Health Education Specialist, Hector Sanchez.

JOIN US IN WELCOMING A NEW PROJECT PARTNER!

Please join us in welcoming [Finn's Place](#) to Project ACTION! Finn's Place provides a safe space for the trans community to gather and access resources, educates the community about trans and LGBTQ+ communities and their experiences, and creates opportunities for trans joy. Their vision is to unite the wider Fort Worth/Tarrant County area as a community that fosters trans joy, create connections, and provide education in the community so that when people leave Finn's Place, they are leaving their community center, but not their sense of community.

Keep an eye out for our next newsletter to see the amazing tobacco control work Finn's Place will achieve!



QUIT PLAN ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM BREATHE WITH PRIDE!

We know that quitting can be tough, but having a solid plan can make all the difference. If you're thinking about quitting, let [Breathe with Pride](#) help you create a personalized quit plan that sets you up for success! With the right tools and support, you can take confident steps toward a tobacco-free life. Click [this link](#) and complete a quick survey to get started today!



LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FROM THE NATIONAL LGBTQ CANCER NETWORK!

The [National LGBTQ Cancer Network](#) has released their latest [State Best Practices in Tobacco & Cancer Control Assessment](#)! This comprehensive resource offers valuable insights into best practices for addressing tobacco use within LGBTQ+ communities, with a focus on creating inclusive, supportive strategies that truly resonate with the unique needs of these communities. Be sure to check out this important assessment and discover how we can all work together to make a meaningful difference in tobacco and cancer control efforts for LGBTQ+ communities!



WATCH THE “VAPES DOWN” MEDIA CAMPAIGN!

The [Texas Department of State Health Services' Tobacco Prevention & Control Program](#) launched a media campaign called "Vapes Down." This campaign aims to raise awareness about the dangers of vaping among youth and young adults. Consider sharing these videos with your patients, concerned parents, and your community!

- [Sampling Vape's 31+ Ingredients](#) (pictured below)

To view the additional videos, click the links below:

- [Vaping Can Cause Brain Fog, Making It Hard to Think and Achieve Your Goals](#)
- [Are You in a Toxic Relationship with Your Vape? Break Up with Nic](#)
- [Vaping Hurts Your Athletic Performance](#)



JOIN PROJECT TEACH: MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER'S TELE-MENTORING PROGRAM

Project TEACH (Tobacco Education and Cessation in the Health System) is an ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes)-based tele-mentoring program facilitated by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. The aim of this program is to provide tobacco education, consulting, and treatment strategies to clinical providers and health professionals.

Sessions are held virtually twice per month on Tuesdays from 12pm-1pm CT. The meeting link is sent via email the week of each session. To join the sessions, please email Echo-Tobacco@MDAnderson.org for registration details. Free Continuing Education and Tobacco Treatment Specialist credits are offered. Visit the Project TEACH website for more information.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER'S TOBACCO TREATMENT TRAINING PROGRAM: SCHOLARSHIPS AND DISCOUNTED RATES AVAILABLE!

Become a credentialed Tobacco Treatment Specialist through The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's Tobacco Treatment Training Program (TTTP). The program is a five-day virtual course focused on the skills needed to effectively deliver tobacco cessation treatment in clinic and community settings. Participants are eligible for up to 32.25 Continuing Education hours. Their next session will be held from March 31-April 4, 2025.

Scholarships are available to employees of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers who provide tobacco and nicotine cessation services, as well as discounted rates for employees of Federally Qualified Health Centers, nonprofits or clinics that serve patients who are uninsured or reside in low-resource settings.

Please email ctts@mdanderson.org to be notified when registration opens or to inquire about eligibility for scholarships and/or discounted rates. Please visit the TTTP website and view the flyer below for more details.

Become a Tobacco Treatment Specialist

Tobacco Treatment Training Program

March 31- April 4, 2025

Virtual training facilitated by
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

For registration and more information:
www.mdanderson.org/tobaccotraining

Questions: cts@mdanderson.org

One-day Prescriber
Track available

Thursday, Apr. 3rd

Attendees will only get the
below core competencies:

- Treatment Planning
- Pharmacotherapy
- Relapse Prevention

This will NOT be credentialled like those
that stay for the week long training.

MD Anderson will offer continuing education hours from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACME), National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC), CEs for LPCs also available. For further information on MD Anderson's End Tobacco Program: www.mdanderson.org/EndTobacco

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History®

WANT TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES? PROJECT ACTION HAS YOU COVERED!

Our team compiles and shares information twice a month about tobacco-related trainings being offered virtually from across the nation that often offer free continuing or medical education credits (i.e., CEUs/CMEs). If you or someone you know would like to be added to our distribution list, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at TakingTexasTobaccoFree@gmail.com or [click here](#) for a pre-populated email template.

Upcoming Virtual Educational Opportunities

List Compiled by Taking Texas Tobacco Free

DECEMBER 3

Overview of First Line Smoking Cessation Medications

- 12:00-1:00 PM CST
- 1.00 CME/CEU available
- MD Anderson's End Tobacco Program (ETP) aims to provide tobacco education, consulting, and cessation strategies to clinical providers
- Sign up by emailing etp@mdanderson.org

DECEMBER 3

The Bridge Model™: Comprehensive Compassionate Community-Based Healthcare Model

- 1:00-2:00 PM CST
- 1.00 CME/CEU available
- Part of UCBP's Smoking Cessation Leadership Center webinar series aimed at facilitating tobacco cessation by sharing recent trends and research
- Register here!

DECEMBER 5

Heart Health and Tobacco Use

- 11:00 AM-12:00 PM CST
- 1.00 CHES/CME available
- The MainHealth Center for Tobacco Independence seeks to address tobacco use and exposure through education, prevention, policy, treatment, and training initiatives
- Register here!

Taking Texas Tobacco Free has a suite of resources focused on tobacco use among teens! Check out our latest rack cards on how e-cigarette use affects teens, available in both English & Spanish, featured below!

Visit our website www.TakingTexasTobaccoFree.com for more resources and sign up for our newsletter here!