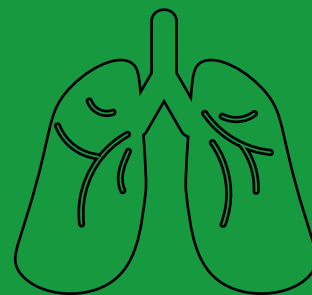


PROJECT ACTION

WELCOME 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, an upcoming opportunity to become a tobacco treatment specialist, new resources from our team, and more!



PARTNER UPDATES

The Montrose Center

The Montrose Center Program Champion Jaymie Mielke Quiroz has been collaborating with our Health Education Specialist, Mikal Zere, to strengthen enforcement of their tobacco-free workplace policy. To boost staff awareness, we provided banners that emphasize the importance of a tobacco-free workplace and highlight available support resources. Staff also received education materials to share with their patients. Additionally, Dr. Martinez Leal, Assistant Professor and Qualitative Analyst, conducted interviews with staff to gather feedback and identify opportunities for improvement. Jaymie is also hard at work compiling monthly reports on tobacco use services delivered to patients, which play a crucial role in evaluating service effectiveness and driving continuous quality improvements.

The Montrose Center is approaching full implementation of Project ACTION, and we're excited to cross the finish line together in these final months.



Finn's Place

We're excited to highlight the meaningful progress being made at Finn's Place as they take key steps toward establishing a tobacco-free environment! Staff recently completed a pre-implementation survey, providing valuable insight into their current perceptions and readiness for transitioning to a tobacco-free workplace. This feedback is essential for tailoring our support and ensuring a smooth, effective implementation process. To support

guest education, Finn's Place received its first shipment of education materials designed to promote the benefits of quitting tobacco and highlight the resources available to assist guests in their journey. Our Program Champion, Zoe Wilkerson, has been working diligently with Mikal to complete their tobacco-free workplace policy. Next up, Mikal is working on scheduling a tobacco dependence training where staff will learn more about the harms of tobacco use and brief interventions to support patient quit attempts!

We're proud of the incredible momentum at Finn's Place and stay tuned for more updates as they continue their journey to becoming tobacco-free!



Coastal Bend Pride Center

We're thrilled to share the exciting progress happening at Coastal Bend Pride Center, where Program Champions Orlando Narvaez and Meredith Grantham have been making important strides toward creating a tobacco-free environment! To ensure they have the tools they need to support clients on their quit journeys, they recently received their center's first shipment of nicotine replacement therapy. To further promote the program, we're designing custom posters and social media content to raise awareness about the importance of being tobacco-free and highlight the support available to clients. These materials will serve as helpful visual reminders of the center's commitment to health and wellness. Last month, Mikal visited Coastal Bend Pride Center to work with Orlando and Meredith on finalizing their nicotine replacement therapy procedures and tobacco use assessment procedures, helping to lay a strong foundation for effective program implementation.

Check out the photos below showcasing new signage and patient education materials, and join us in congratulating Orlando and Meredith for their dedication to this work!



**COASTAL BEND
PRIDE CENTER**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER

The Montrose Center Staff Help Other Centers Become Tobacco-Free!

Recovery Support Specialists and Tobacco Treatment Specialists Kirby Gray and Steven Sosa at The Montrose Center are actively supporting other Houston-based centers in their journey to becoming tobacco-free. Specifically, they have partnered with the Mission of Yahweh and Cross Walk Transitional Housing to support their transition to tobacco-free environments by providing tailored education, counseling, and cessation resources that meet the unique needs of each center. This initiative not only promotes healthier lifestyles for residents and staff but also aligns with broader public health goals by fostering tobacco-free living and working spaces. Together, these centers are taking meaningful steps toward creating supportive, tobacco-free communities.



Amazing
work



Project ACTION Staff Attend Walk to End HIV in Houston!

This past March, Health Education specialist Mikal Zere and Senior Research Data Coordinator Asfand Moosa participated in the the Walk to End HIV, hosted by Allies in Hope. They connected with community members, offering free swag, patient education materials, and quit cards, while sharing valuable information about tobacco cessation resources.



Pictured: Asfand Moosa (left) and Mikal Zere (right) with "swag bag".



Pictured: Mikal Zere at Project ACTION table.

NEW PATIENT EDUCATION MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!

 Don't let vaping cloud your judgement 	We've recently developed new patient education brochures focused on the harms of vaping and how to talk with LGBTQ+ youth about it. These resources are now available on our website—be sure to check them out and share with anyone who might benefit from this important information. We're also working on Spanish translations, so stay tuned for their upcoming release!	 How to talk to LGBTQ+ youth about vaping 
--	--	---

ASFAND MOOSA EXPANDS ROLE TO LEAD PROJECT DISSEMINATION

Asfand Moosa (Senior Research Data Coordinator) worked part-time with the team for about a year as an Undergraduate Research Assistant while completing his B.S. in biology with a minor in psychology at the University of Houston. He recently joined full-time, leading dissemination efforts for multiple projects – including Project ACTION – and supporting our health education team as he gains community-based experience. Passionate about social and environmental health determinants, Asfand aims to reduce health disparities by bridging research and real-world impact through accessible education and outreach. After gaining research and work experience, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences with a focus on health equity and community-centered care.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR MD ANDERSON'S TOBACCO TREATMENT TRAINING PROGRAM!

Become a credentialed Tobacco Treatment Specialist through [MD Anderson's Tobacco Treatment Training Program \(TTTP\)](#). The program is a five-day virtual course focused on the skills needed to effectively deliver tobacco use cessation treatment in clinic and community settings. Participants are eligible to receive up to 32.25 continuing education hours.

Their next session will be held from September 15-19, 2025. Registration is open until August 13 and can be accessed [here](#).

If you have any questions related to the program, please visit the [TTTP website](#) or email CTTS@MDAnderson.org. Please see the flyer below for more details.

Become a Tobacco Treatment Specialist

Tobacco Treatment Training Program

September 15-19, 2025

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

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

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

One-day Prescriber Track available

Thursday, Sept. 18th

Attendees will only get the below core competencies:

- Treatment Planning
- Pharmacotherapy
- Relapse Prevention

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

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MDAnderson Cancer Center
Making Cancer History®

JOIN MD ANDERSON'S TELE-MENTORING PROGRAM, PROJECT TEACH!

[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, consultation, 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.

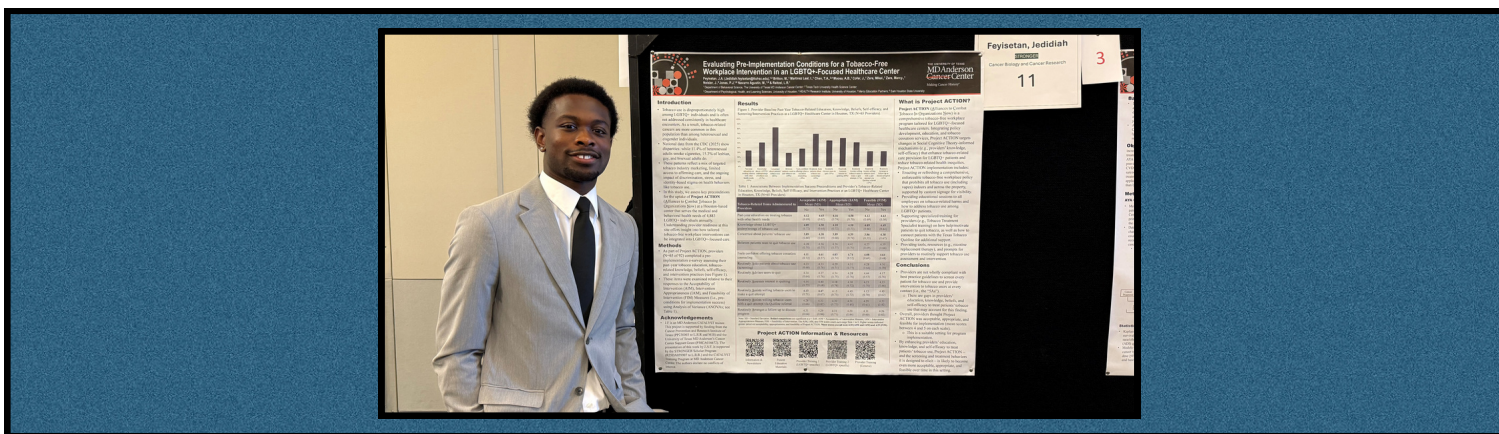
To join the sessions, please email Echo-Tobacco@MDAnderson.org for registration details. Free continuing education and Tobacco Treatment Specialist credits are offered. Visit the [Project TEACH website](#) for more information.



SUMMER RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Jedidiah Feyisetan is a medical student at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center interested in research exploring the intersections of cancer, tobacco use, and anesthesiology. As a trainee in the STRONGER Scholars Program this summer, Jedidiah prepared an abstract and poster exploring conditions for successful implementation of Project ACTION in LGBTQ+-focused healthcare centers. **He presented this work at an end-of-summer symposium, pictured below.**



WANT TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES? WE HAVE 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.



TAKING TEXAS TOBACCO FREE

Upcoming Virtual Educational Opportunities

List Compiled by Taking Texas Tobacco Free

Educational Opportunities

AUGUST 5

Behavioral Activation Therapy

- 12:00-1:00 PM CDT
- 1.00 CME/CEU available
- MD Anderson's **Project TEACH (ECHO Clinic)** aims to provide tobacco education, consulting, and cessation strategies to clinical providers
- Sign up by emailing entobacco@mdanderson.org

AUGUST 8

Understanding the Role of Genetic Heterogeneity in Smoking Interventions: Experimental Evidence from the Lung Health Study

- 1:00-2:00 PM CDT
- No CME/CEUs available
- The goal of the **Tobacco Online Policy Seminar** series is to disseminate research focused on developing effective tobacco policies for the improvement of population health
- Register [here!](#)

AUGUST 13

Ask the Expert: Building a System That Helped 300,000 People Quit Smoking

- 1:00-2:00 PM CDT
- 1.00 CME/CEU available
- Part of UCSF's **Smoking Cessation Leadership Center** webinar series aimed at facilitating tobacco cessation by sharing recent trends and research
- Register [here!](#)

AUGUST 19

Case-Based Discussion Series for Clinicians: Addressing Tobacco Use in Behavioral Health Settings: An Overview of the Evidence Based Approach

- 11:00-11:45 AM and 4:00-4:45 PM CDT
- No CME/CEUs available
- The **National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery** aims to provide technical assistance, training, and resources to help make tobacco-free recovery possible
- Register for the 11AM session [here](#) and for the 4 PM session [here!](#)

Explore **Taking Texas Tobacco Free's** new rack card for guidance on how to talk about vaping with LGBTQ+ youth.

[How to talk to LGBTQ+ youth about vaping](#)

Visit our website www.TakingTexasTobaccoFree.com for more resources and sign up for our newsletter [here!](#)