

CoalitionNews

Updates & News from DC Tobacco Free Coalition

Together we can build a tobacco-free Washington



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Letter from the Chair

Now is the Time



Now is the time to recommit ourselves to our shared Coalition goal of working towards a Tobacco-Free DC.

I'm humbled and honored to follow in the footsteps of our former Chairperson, Dr. Carla Williams, and I invite you all to join me in thanking her for her steadfast leadership and excellent stewardship of the Coalition. We also offer deep gratitude to the other outstanding outgoing Executive Committee

members like Stuart Berlow, our expert policy committee chair.

Now is the time for our incoming Executive Committee leaders to step in and step up.

It's a critical moment in public health and tobacco control, coming away from the pandemic that ravaged the lives of so many of our most vulnerable populations, including the people who smoke that we are desperately trying to reach.

More recently, in a major step forward for health, the US Food and Drug Administration announced their intention to begin the process to remove menthol

Committee Update

Policy

The DC Tobacco-Free Coalition is actively supporting the campaigns on the local and national levels to get flavored tobacco products off the market.

On April 29, the FDA committed to advancing a ban of menthol flavored cigarettes and all flavored cigars. This was a big moment in the fight to close the health inequities Big Tobacco has created in their decades long effort to hook communities of color with



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Action on Smoking & Health (ASH)

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Howard University
Cancer Center

SECRETARY

Dr. Bernadette Antoon
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Pfizer

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Josh Brown
Flavors Hook Kids DC

PROGRAM CHAIR

Charles Debnam
Community Wellness Alliance

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James Butler III, DrPH, MEd
University of Maryland

SUSTAINABILITY CHAIR

Rolando Andrew, MBA
Breathe DC

YOUTH PROGRAMS CHAIR

Ashley Thomas
Truth Initiative

DC HEALTH LIAISON

Carrie Dahlquist

MINI GRANTS AVAILABLE

Planning an event or doing outreach?

The Coalition's mini grant program provides funding up to \$2,500 to support local events & outreach.

Contact Rena at rena@dctfc.org

CHAIR LETTER FROM PAGE 1

cigarettes from commercial sale. In the District, we welcome this move but must also take immediate action to implement our own flavor ban to protect as many of our residents as possible, while the FDA's process is underway for the coming years.

We must act now to protect our community, especially our young and vulnerable neighbors, from the damage and disease that tobacco product use continues to inflict.

Now is the time for local action. We are at a crossroads in DC, with a bill to ban all flavored tobacco products including mentholated cigarettes and cigars still in pending within our DC City Council. This is our chance to right an existing wrong within our community. When the FDA banned all other flavored cigarettes in 2009, they only left mentholated cigarettes (popular within African American communities) on shelves – meaning our African American neighbors are at greater risk of being hooked by flavored tobacco products.

Now is the time to correct this social justice issue. We must unite across organizations and double down on our advocacy efforts to strengthen our push to prioritize the health of DC residents.

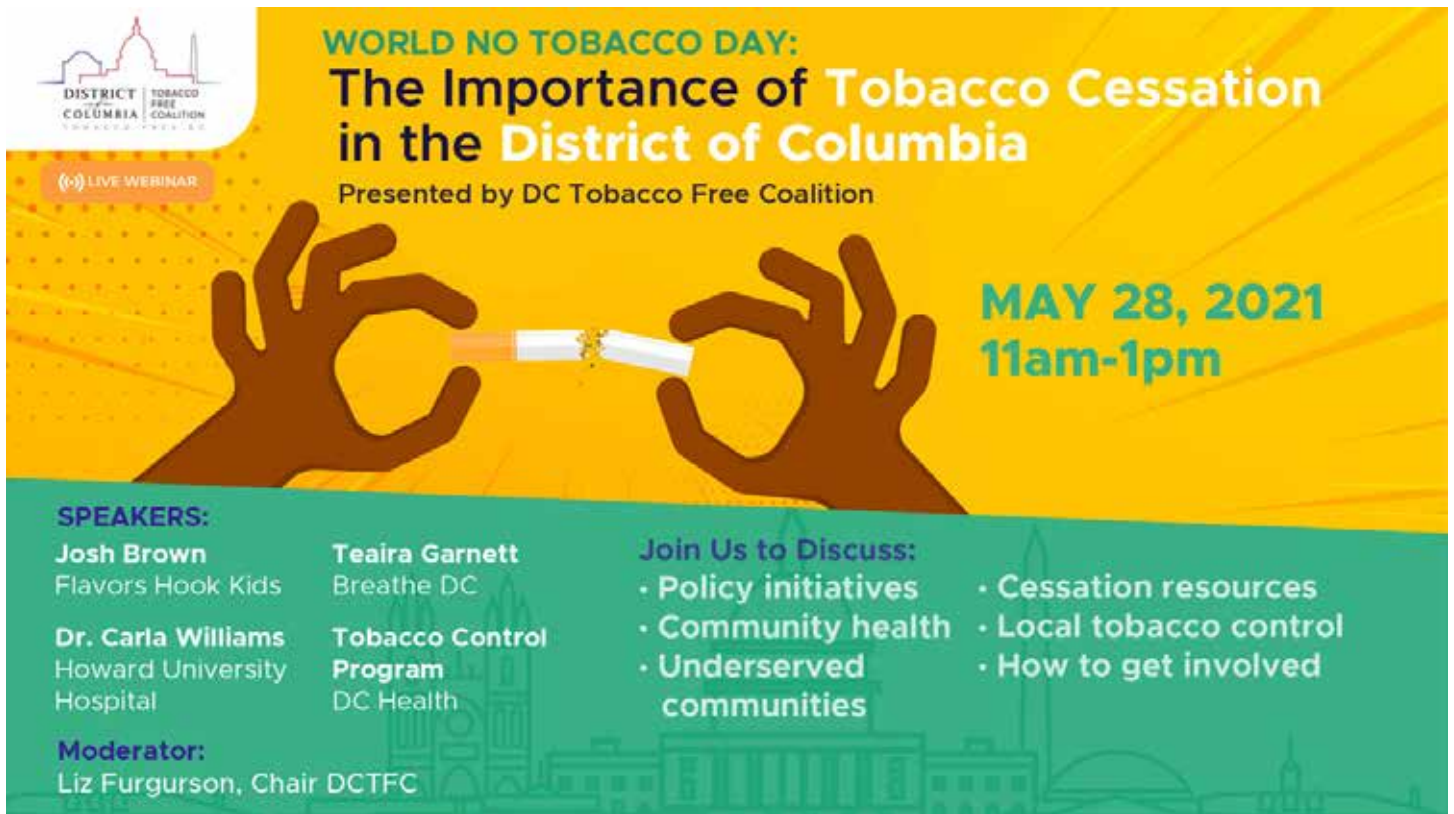
During our time apart, we've maintained our connections virtually with our regular meetings, online forums, and advocacy events. But, now is the time for us focus on coming **together** again.

I encourage you all to roll up your sleeves and grab your vaccines so that we can get back to work **together** on our mission towards a Tobacco-Free DC.

Liz Furgurson
Chairperson

Coalition hosts local resources webinar

Local tobacco control and tobacco cessation resources are highlighted in the Coalition's webinar for members and allies



WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY:
The Importance of Tobacco Cessation in the District of Columbia
Presented by DC Tobacco Free Coalition

MAY 28, 2021
11am-1pm

SPEAKERS:
Josh Brown
Flavors Hook Kids
Dr. Carla Williams
Howard University Hospital
Moderator:
Liz Furgurson, Chair DCTFC

Teaira Garnett
Breathe DC
Tobacco Control Program
DC Health

Join Us to Discuss:
• Policy initiatives
• Community health
• Underserved communities
• Cessation resources
• Local tobacco control
• How to get involved

POLICY FROM PAGE 1

menthol flavored tobacco products. The DC Tobacco-Free Coalition issued a press release praising the move.

Unfortunately, this policy does not cover e-cigarettes and is expected to take a couple of years to go into effect. As a result, we are working with the Flavors Hook Kids DC Campaign and our champions on the DC Council to advance legislation to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products in the District of Columbia. This legislation is

supported by 9 out of the 13 members of the DC Council and will soon be marked up by the Judiciary Committee.

After the bill is passed, we will need to quickly work to get it funded in this upcoming budget. The legislation can only go into effect once it is funded. Our champions on the Council have asked for us to organize letters of support to fund the bill and send them to the Council to be added to the official record.

If you are interested in sending in one of these letters please contact our Policy Committee Chair Josh Brown at josh@brownstrategy.com. We will provide you with a template letter and the email addresses to send it to.

The more letters we are able to send in, the more likely we will be able to get the bill fully funded so we can end the sale of these products that hook and kill too many of us in the District each year. ■



SAVE THE DATE
JOIN US FOR THE NEXT **FULL COALITION MEETING**
JULY 8, 2021

Meet the Executive Committee



Liz Furgurson, Chairperson

Liz has been involved in the tobacco control community and a District resident for 18 years. She is now the Chief Operating Officer at Action on Smoking & Health, where she oversees operations and finances as well as the development and implementation of ASH's programs. Liz's prior professional experience includes managing the business affairs and serving as Chief Operating Officer of the Framework Convention Alliance, an international coalition of NGOs from more than 100 countries which has been widely recognized for its vital role in shaping the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Born and raised in southern Virginia, Liz holds a BS from George Mason University and a MS from the Kogod School of Business at American University. Liz is actively involved with her Park View community in NW DC and serves on the Boards of Directors District Bridges and Georgia Ave Thrive.



Carla Williams, Immediate Past Chair

Carla Williams, PhD, is currently Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health and Interim Director of the Howard University Cancer Center. Her work centers around understanding and reducing cancer-related health disparities, and broadly addresses issues of health equity affecting African Americans and other underrepresented communities, with emphasis on cancer disparities. Since 2010, Dr. Williams has served as community engagement core director within three institutional research programs: The Georgetown-Howard Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CTSA); the NIMHD Center of Excellence in Health Disparities in the Nation's Capital; and the Howard University Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program. Dr. Williams received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Howard University.



Bernadette Antoon, Secretary

Bernadette Antoon, PhD, MPH, NCTTP, is the Director of Professional Development at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. Prior to this role, Dr. Antoon served as the Tobacco Cessation Coordinator at Catholic Charities Anchor Mental Health, where she was responsible for developing and integrating tobacco related health system change strategies and treatment interventions into Anchor's behavioral health system. Her academic and research priorities include eliminating barriers to equal tobacco treatment opportunities among vulnerable populations, specifically, individuals experiencing homelessness or living with severe mental illness. Dr. Antoon holds a PhD from the University of Louisville and an MPH from the University of Florida.

Pamela S. Smith, Communications & Outreach Chair

Pamela S. Smith, BS, PharmD, is a Senior Field Medical Director within Pfizer’s Medical Affairs division in the Mid-Atlantic (DC/DE/MD area) region for Pfizer, Inc, where she has been employed for the past 20 years. She received her B.S. in pharmacy from the West Virginia University School of Pharmacy in Morgantown, West Virginia and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and Residency in Critical Care Pharmacy from the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Smith served as Clinical Pharmacist Specialist in Critical Care for the Pharmacy Department at Charleston Area Medical Center from 1996 to 1999. Dr. Smith is active in state and national pharmacy associations and has presented at numerous poster sessions. She is also active in leading pharmacy residents and students from schools of pharmacy in the local area. In addition to her significant cardiovascular expertise and health care system experience, Pamela has demonstrated Medical Affairs leadership in initiatives with various national organizations including ASHP, ACCP, AACP, FDA, AHA, American Cancer Society as well as regional associations. Dr. Smith also has extensive experience in working in the national capital region to engage providers, health systems, and third-party organizations, around initiatives related to cardiovascular disease and smoking cessation.



Josh Brown, Policy Chair

Josh is the CEO of marketing and advocacy firm Brown Strategy where he leads his team’s work with more than 100 companies, organizations and causes. He currently is serving as the Campaign Manager for the Flavors Hook Kids DC campaign advocating to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products in the District.



Josh has over a decade of experience in communications and marketing. He got his start working in the political arena. He has held senior roles in more than two dozen political and advocacy organizations and spent time in government on Capitol Hill and at the Council of the District of Columbia. He is a skilled videographer, photographer, web developer and graphic designer and brings his passion for telling compelling stories to every project he works on.

In the community, Josh serves as the Co-Chair of the Young Leadership Division and a member of the Leadership & Nominations Committee for the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and just finished a term as the Corresponding Secretary for the Ward 3 Democrats. Josh lives in Glover Park with his wife and dog.

Charles Debnam, Program Chair

Charles Debnam is a seasoned public health professional with more than thirty years of experience implementing innovative programs that bring health and wellness awareness through education, outreach and advocacy. He has led many health-related research initiatives east of the Anacostia River, including a groundbreaking campaign to examine the effects tobacco has on HIV medications, and educate the public about the impact. Mr. Debnam holds degrees in Business Management and Computer Science from Fisk University. He is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and a Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist (CTTS) and a Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC).



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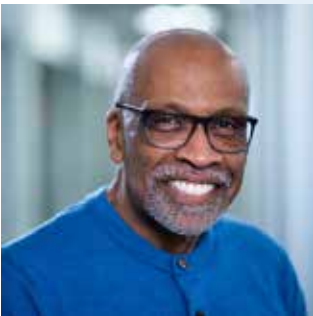
Rolando Andrew, Sustainability Chair

Rolando Andrew, MBA, is an experienced coalition builder, program director and health education strategist with more than 35 years of experience. Mr. Andrew founded Breathe DC in 2010 after serving 12 years as chief executive officer of the American Lung Association of DC (ALADC). He has led several high-profile tobacco control initiatives, including a \$10 million smoking cessation and prevention campaign from 2006 to 2009, which was a major factor in reducing the District's rate of smoking from 20% to 16%. He established and coordinated innovative programs and services that significantly reduced smoking and tobacco use in the District of Columbia, improved asthma management among children, and improved air quality throughout the DC metropolitan region.



Ashley Thomas, Youth Representative

Ashley currently serves as the Director of Community Outreach for Truth Initiative. She works with her team to oversee local community activism on the ground in Atlanta, GA and Washington, DC. She is also responsible for creating and implementing tactics to build up local and national power to help embolden youth and young adults to reject tobacco and take meaningful action. Ashley works to hold large corporations accountable, and help ignite a new wave of activists. Before joining Truth Initiative, Ashley spent seven years at Greenpeace USA, working in their Grassroots team, managing their on the ground canvassing team on local activism. Ashley received a BA in Global Politics and Economics from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



James Butler III, Research Representative

James Butler III, DrPH, MEd, is an Associate Professor of Behavioral and Community Health at the University of Maryland. Dr. Butler's research is anchored in an ecological framework that incorporates individual, social structure and environmental influences to eliminate tobacco-related health disparities. He builds ongoing and permanent relationships with community members when developing interventions where the community participates in all aspects of the research process. Dr. Butler holds a doctorate in public health from the University of Pittsburgh and a master's degree in community health education from Temple University.



Carrie Dahlquist, DC Health Liaison

Carrie Dahlquist is the Manager of the Tobacco Control Program with DC Health's Community Health Administration. Ms. Dahlquist oversees initiatives to reduce the harms of tobacco by reducing use of tobacco, preventing initiation of smoking, and reducing exposure to secondhand smoke through policy, systems and environmental change. Prior to her current role, she served as a Public Health Analyst with DC Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. Ms. Dahlquist serves on the DC Health Cancer Programs Leadership Committee and the DC Cancer Registry Advisory Board and as an advisor on the DC Tobacco Free Coalition Executive Committee. Her prior experience includes work with the American Cancer Society in Washington, DC, Texas, and Louisiana; the National MS Society in Virginia and Texas; and the Alzheimer's Association in Texas. In addition to her public health work, she helps others lead physically active lives as a fitness instructor. Ms. Dahlquist is a graduate of University of Louisiana with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and is currently pursuing a Master's in Public Health at University of Massachusetts Amherst.

2021 DC Calls It Quits Week

September 19th through 25th

To learn more and sign up to participate, contact Charles Debnam at charles@cwadm.org



Committee Update Programs

2021 DC Calls It Quits Week: September 19th to 25th

All Coalition members and allies are encouraged to participate

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death. Each year, approximately 800 DC residents die because of smoking related diseases. In previous years DC Mayor Bowser has declared the last week of September as **DC Calls It Quits Week** to encourage DC residents to quit smoking. This year's DC Calls it Quits Week will be September 19th through September 25th.

Organizations are encouraged to host an event that will promote quitting tobacco and the utilization of the DC Quitline and other free local resources.

The DC Tobacco Free Coalition will also be holding a Summit on Thursday, September 23rd to bring together community policy makers and leaders to discuss cessation efforts and the disparities associated with tobacco use and the concern over flavored tobacco. Look for more information in the weeks and months to follow.

If you or your organization are interested in partnering, please Contact Charles Debnam at charles@cwadm.org for more information. ■



Connect with the Coalition!



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Spread the Word: The DC Quitline provides FREE Help to Quit Smoking

District residents can call the DC Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669) to reach counselors to help people prepare to quit absolutely FREE.

World No Tobacco Day: Commit to Quit, May 31

Currently, over 70% of the 1.3 billion tobacco users worldwide lack access to the tools they need to quit successfully. This gap in access to cessation services is only further exacerbated in the last year as the health workforce has been mobilized to handle the pandemic.

That's why the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a year-long campaign for World No Tobacco Day's "Commit to Quit" theme. The campaign aims to empower 100 million tobacco users to make a quit attempt by creating networks of support and increasing access to services proven to help tobacco users quit successfully. Read more and access resources at: <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-no-tobacco-day>



New Members Welcome!

DC Tobacco Free Coalition membership is open to individuals, nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups and corporate partners who share our commitment to building healthy, thriving, tobacco-free communities.

Know someone who might be interested in joining? Tell them to visit:

www.dctfc.org/join



web: www.dctfc.org
email: info@dctfc.org

Stay in touch!

Subscribe to our news alerts to get the latest announcements and updates from the DC Tobacco Free Coalition!

Sign up at www.dctfc.org/subscribe