

Meeting Minutes January 15, 2026

12:00 PM-1:00PM

*Attendees: Kendra Brown, *Melanie Wilks, Barbie Williams, Lydia Velazquez, *Amanda Tompkins, Kylie Poor, Christine Dunsworth, Bill Martin, Barb Ittner, Kayla Langford, Brandy Beeman, Tina Hang*

**=New attendees*

I. Upcoming Events/Updates

- a. Prevention Day – February 7
- b. McDonald County Economic Development group
 - i. Chamber of Commerce Office – January 21 from 11AM – 12PM
 - 1. Tina will be attending this meeting
- c. Meetings of Minds: Missourians Aging Coalition
- d. Tobacco Tax Bill
 - i. A 10¢ tax has been introduced to help fund Missouri senior citizens
- e. Grant writing webinar:
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/uM5n0RaDRFuzWIWv6qmNRA#/registration>

II. CPO

- a. SAPST – CEU on substance abuse prevention
 - i. 4-day training over 2 months
 - ii. REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 1
 - 1.
- b. Missouri Student Survey
 - i. No response from McDonald County Schools currently
 - ii. 2 Schools in Newton County
- c. Coalition application revision
 - i. Mission Statement:
 - 1. The McDonald County Community Coalition fosters an inclusive and engaged community by addressing health.
- d. Mini grant
 - i. Up to \$10,000 can be requested for **substance misuse prevention ONLY!**
 - 1. Don't have to request the full \$10,000
 - 2. No due date yet—aiming to have mini-grant request completed by May
 - ii. Possible mini-grant projects



The Alliance™

McDonald County Community Coalition

1. In the Know

- a. QR code yard sign with that leads to coalition website and provides information about substance abuse prevention.
Information can be updated as needed

- 2. “No Puffin” pins – adapted to McDonald County
- 3. Conducting a poll of residents who do not go to certain businesses because of their smoke policy
- 4. Education that vaping IS smoking
- 5. Youth prevention engagement

iii. What are other coalitions doing?

III. Coalition Updates

a. Next to Rise

- i. Youth advocacy group working on show-me-smoke-free, tobacco use prevention
- ii. McDonald County schools turned down the opportunity even though having students participate helps the schools make money
 - 1. In Missouri, Atchison County, Dent County, Randolph County, Columbia, and Kansas City all have a Next to Rise group
- iii. Program requires one school advisor, but the program is run by a representative from the Next to Rise program staff

b. Pre-Emption Bill

- i. Frames itself as a Tobacco 21 bill for Missouri, but Tobacco 21 is already a federal law
 - 1. It aims to remove the right to licensing regulations at the local level which can also potentially affect how close to a school someone can sell tobacco

c. State-Wide Active Transportation Plan Letter of Support

- i. Jackson Hotaling from Missourians for Responsible Transportation asked our coalition to send a letter of support for the SATP, which will allow MoDoT to plan and address critical gaps in safety, funding, connectivity, and policy for non-motorized transportation across Missouri. The SATP would improve safety and accessibility for all users, align with federal and state policy goals, and provide strategic, equitable, and cost-effective approaches to transportation planning.
- ii. Coalition members have voted to send a letter of support

IV. Building Communities for Better Health

a. Tobacco Free Policies with businesses

- i. Any businesses that adopt a tobacco free policy helps us achieve a little “p” policy
 1. **Little p policies** are smaller scale, informal policies that can be implemented at the local, institutional, or organizational level and may influence specific practices within an organization that are generally easier to change and can lead to immediate improvements in specific areas
 - a. E.g. smoke-free parks, tobacco free business policies, etc.
 2. **Big p policies** are significant policies that are usually established at the state or federal level and often require legislative approval and tend to have a broad impact and are often the focus of extensive advocacy and media attention.
 - a. E.g. laws, regulations, comprehensive plans, etc.

V. Next Meeting

- a. February – VIRTUAL: Next to Rise presentation
 - i. Please try to get some school representatives to this meeting!!!
- b. March meeting
 - i. Mini-grant brainstorming session