

The Tobacco & Cancer Task Force met in the office of the American Cancer Society at noon on Wednesday, April 5, 1978. Present were:

Sara Ollmann
Larry Haugh
Chris Ruiz
Fred Luhm

Dr. V. Algarra
Dr. Alan Blum
Ted Kraft
Rene Romero

Rey Murazzi
Loris Lyons

The meeting was called to order by Sara Ollman, Chairperson-Presiding. The minutes were read from the February 7th meeting, and approved without correction.

Dr. Alan Blum gave a report on the recent activities of the DOC organization, and the recent protest against The Miami Herald. He stated DOC is receiving good moral support from the community and favorable comments from various publications. He is also regularly participating in a medical program on Radio Station WNWS, on Sunday morning from 9-10 a.m., and there will be frequent opportunities for advancing his views on cigarette advertising and smoking hazards. A copy of "The Smoking Digest," a progress report from U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was distributed to each member of the Task Force.

Renee Romero reported that the second smoking clinic held at Mercy Hospital was much better organized, and from the 40 first night participants, 22 continued the six sessions and all stated they had quit smoking. Six of the participants wrote letters to Mercy Hospital with thanks for the staff and facilities for the clinic. The dietary presentation is not as yet satisfactory, but films and other materials and ideas are being tested.

Rey Murazzi advised that in a recent Spanish clinic held over four nights, there were 42 participants the first night, with 22 left the last night and 12 had stopped smoking. It was felt that the Spanish clinic was poor compared to the ones in English, as good films and literature are not yet available in Spanish. Transportation to Mercy was also a problem. A Spanish clinic is planned at Henry Filer Community High School in Hialeah.

A question was raised regarding the Spanish "League Against Cancer" group, and Rey explained it was a social branch of ACS, with its primary interest being fund raising, but unfortunately they broke away from ACS

Fred Luhm told of his efforts to organize a smoking clinic at National Airlines, and the complicated scheduling problems because of the various Unions and shifts involved. A discussion evolved on how to persuade management to hold the clinics on company time, since no smoking on the part of employees results in greater productivity and decreases absenteeism. ACS volunteers are working on possible smoking clinics at Cordis Corporation and Florida Power & Light.

Sara Ollman announced that Judge Dominic Koo's case against the woman smoker in the supermarket, was thrown out of court because the no smoking sign was not properly displayed in the supermarket.

Rey Murazzi and Sara Ollman reported on the ACS materials available for schools to use in educating youth on the hazards of smoking and the benefits of good health practices. Volunteers are needed to contact the Dade County Schools to arrange for presentations by ACS volunteers. In this connection, Don Wheeler of South West Miami Senior High School, was present, and told of the very positive response from the teachers at his school, when the no smoking program was presented. He advised they were particularly impressed with Dr. Blum's presentation.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be Wednesday, May 31, 12:00 noon. The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.