

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting | MINUTES

January 11, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 48 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (LaShan Dixon) “We all have two options when it comes to human trafficking, do nothing at all or get involve and help stop this modern-day slavery.” - Unknown

## (LaShan Dixon)

- **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day** is the exploitation of another person for labor, domestic servitude, or commercial sexual activity by force, fraud, or coercion. It is also the act of enslaving or exploiting unwilling people. Unfortunately, slavery in many forms has existed for hundreds of years – and persistently exists today, though many are unaware of this fact.

Today is the day we raise awareness of human trafficking, the entire month of January has already been recognized as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, but this day is specifically dedicated to awareness and prevention of the illegal practice. Since the Senate established this day of observance in 2007, it has drawn massive public support from many individual donations.

This horrific injustice of human trafficking can affect people of all race and background, and on this day, we are called to fight human trafficking wherever it exists. As for human trafficking statistics by state, Tennessee human trafficking cases reported 152, human trafficking victims 217, sex trafficking 115 and labor trafficking 13. The National Human Trafficking Hotline works closely with service providers, law enforcement, and other professionals in Tennessee to serve victims and survivors of trafficking. If you like to get involve or know someone who needs help the:

- **National Hotline Phone Number:** 1.888.373.7888
  - **Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline:** 1.855.55. TNHTH
  - **Online Chat:** <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/chat>
  - **TTY:** 711
  - **Text:** 233733
- **Poverty Awareness Month** Every single day poverty is a complex social issue that affects everyone at a national and international scale. During this month, Poverty Awareness Month aims to raise awareness and shine a light on the growing levels of poverty in America. The information from the Census Bureau notates the official poverty rate

in 2022 was 11.5 percent, with 37.9 million people in poverty. The rate nor the number of people in poverty was significantly different from 2021. The official poverty rate for Black individuals decreased between 2021 and 2022. The 2022 rate has been the lowest on record.

- **National Blood Donor Month** January marks the 52nd anniversary of National Blood Donor Month this is a time to recognize the importance of giving blood and platelets while celebrating the lifesaving impact of those who roll up a sleeve to help patients in need. It is also a time to encourage new and lapsed donors to resolve to give blood during one of the most difficult times to maintain a sufficient blood supply during the winter months.

This year's National Blood Donor Month comes as the nation's blood supply has dipped to concerning levels and could force hospitals to delay essential blood and platelet transfusions. Blood donors of all blood types – particularly type O blood, the blood group hospitals need most – are needed now to give blood or platelets to help meet daily hospital demands. If you like to participate and give blood, please contact the American Red Cross Tennessee Region at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

- **Glaucoma Awareness Month** is a group of eye diseases that lead to damage of the optic nerve, which transmits visual information from the eye to the brain. Glaucoma may cause vision loss if left untreated. It has been called the "silent thief of sight" because the loss of vision usually occurs slowly over a long period of time. Glaucoma has no early symptoms and the only way to check for it is to get a comprehensive dilated eye exam. There's no cure for glaucoma but starting treatment as early as possible can help stop vision loss. Anyone can get glaucoma, but there are some people who are at higher risk than others such as those that are:
  - Over age 60
  - Black/African American and over age 40
  - Asian American
  - Hispanic/Latino
  - Or a family with history of glaucoma

Join National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) [National Eye Health Education Program \(NEHEP\) | National Eye Institute \(nih.gov\)](#) and encourage everyone at higher risk for glaucoma to get a dilated eye exam. It's the best way to protect their vision!

- **Mental Wellness Month** is dedicated to more than one month and January is the kickoff month to a year of wholesome mental wellness. To make it easy, give each month a wellness focus. Mental wellness differs from mental health, defined by how you think, feel, and act in daily activities. Good mental health is characterized by having coping skills, regulating emotions, seeking support, and engaging in healthy activities. Mental Wellness is all the actions you take to ensure your mental health needs are being met and maintained. It does not mean you eliminate a mental health disorder; you do what it takes to control it. Mental wellness can include the following:
  - Setting mental health goals and the steps to help you achieve them.
  - Volunteer or give back to the community.
  - Meet with a mental health therapist to learn more about yourself.
  - Attend a peer support group.
  - Practice self-care, such as mindfulness, stress management, quality sleep.
  - Engage in healthy relationships at work, home, school, and socially.
  - Avoid mental exhaustion.

---

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Nashville Diaper Connection

**Presenter:** Douglas Adair, Co-Founder

**Summary:** Nashville Diaper Connection is the only diaper bank that was founded by Douglas Adair and his wife Susan Culklin in their garage since 2013. As for Nashville Diaper Connection, there are two programs on how to receive diapers, the first program is “On Demand”, and the second program is called “The Connections” program, which is similar to the diapers on demand but includes engagement with clinic providers. Since September 2020 thru August 2023, there were (34) participating clinics, 49,246+ engaging families, 27,334+ Immunizations and EPSDT’s and (21) counties with community involvement.

Within the rural community 78% providers showed more involvement and 64% providers showed improvement in immunization and EPSDT compliance, which created a collaborative partnership with community partners, diaper bank, public health, payers, providers, and families. The key stakeholders that’s needed are clinics, managed care organizations, regional diaper banks and local foundations.

Nashville Diaper Connections also have a workforce development which provides diaper scholarships to parents that are students, they provide 200+ diapers for the academic year. Nashville Diaper Connection has made a world of difference by providing 279+ scholarships and 77% of scholarship recipients graduated. If you need more information or have any questions regarding Nashville Diapers Connection, do not hesitate to contact Doug Adair by email at [doug.adair@nashvillediaperconnection.org](mailto:doug.adair@nashvillediaperconnection.org) and/or Heidi Hayne by via email [heidi.hayne@nashvillediaperconnection.org](mailto:heidi.hayne@nashvillediaperconnection.org).

---

**Member Comments:** Announcements and Upcoming Events

- 

---

**Resources mentioned during call:**

- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

**Chat Box – links / website / events:**

- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

---

**Next Meeting: January 18, 2024, from 1pm-2pm via Microsoft Teams.**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting details are as follows:**

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

+1 629-209-4396, 641975577# United States, Nashville  
Phone Conference ID: 641 975 577#