

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting |MINUTES

January 25, 2024 | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 52 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (LaShan Dixon) “Stalking is real, it can happen to anyone just remain aware it’s dangerous and its a crime.” Anonymous

## (LaShan Dixon)

- **National Stalking Awareness Month** is the twentieth annual, which is a call to action to recognize and respond to this traumatic and dangerous victimization. January is the beginning and all year long we want to encourage you to raise awareness around stalking and reflect on how we can better support victims and hold stalkers accountable. If you would like to learn more information below is the link to their website <https://www.stalkingawareness.org/stalking-awareness-month-2024/>
- **Self-Love Month** is something we all need more of. It’s far too easy to get carried away by life’s troubles and forget to appreciate yourself. Self-Love Month is a time to appreciate yourself and invest time in conscious physical, spiritual, and psychological growth. It involves prioritizing your happiness and well-being. Your needs won’t take care of themselves, pay attention to yourself every single day and learn to build your self-worth and get what you deserve.
- **National Eye Care Month** is observed for the month of January and to maintain healthy eyes outside the eye exam room here are a few everyday habits that can significantly impact eye health, care, and vision. For instance, improper use of eye makeup can lead to serious eye problems, from allergic reactions to infections. Therefore, it’s essential to use makeup safely and responsibly, and never share eye makeup with others.

Make sure to protect your eyes from harmful UV rays its crucial, as prolonged exposure can lead to conditions like cataracts and macular degeneration. Wearing sunglasses that block out 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation is an easy and effective way to protect your eyes while outside.

Lastly, digital eye strain is a growing concern due to the increasing time spent in front of screens. It’s crucial to practice healthy habits like the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds. This simple practice can help reduce digital eye strain and promote better eye health.

- **National Codependency Awareness Month** revolves around helping those who may be caught up in codependent relationships or one who feels the need to be dependent on or controlled by another. Codependency is a perception of life that is based on one's childhood.

Codependency develops when a child is exposed to a dysfunctional family, where they are exposed to abuse and neglect by the parents. While in sociology, codependency is a concept that looks at imbalanced and unequal relationships. This is where the codependent individual tries to make up for the self-destructive tendencies of the others by suppressing their own needs.

Self-sacrifice and ignoring one's own feelings and emotions are key to such a partnership. The codependent person is continually looking for acceptance, any criticism sends them into a tailspin. Codependent relationships can also develop between lovers, friends, siblings, parents, coworkers, and others.

Codependents put others on a high pedestal and ignore themselves, they have low self-esteem and a complex personality where their own needs come last. This type of relationship can be extremely toxic, which needs to be identified and the codependent person must receive professional help.

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## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** TDH 2023 Child Fatality Annual Report

**Presenter:** Chase Foster, B.S., Child and Infant Fatality Program Director

**Summary:** In Tennessee, the Child Fatality Review Team, reviews all childhood death's when children is under the age of 18, born 23 weeks early and/or 500 grams. The CFR Team mission is to review child deaths to create and carry out prevention recommendations. The CFR Team is composed of regional health officers, dept of children services, medical examiner, prosecuting attorney, member of local emergency education, pediatrician, emergency medical law enforcement officer and juvenile court representative. There are (34) Local CFR Review Team Members, not including the state level child fatality review team, which includes high officials such as legislators, health commissioner, attorney general and state representatives who can make decisions regarding changes to policy and law.

The meetings are scheduled quarterly, and the local CFR Review Team provide updates and previous years of recommendations. In 2021, there were 926 child deaths, and 906 cases met the requirements for child fatality review. A 50-page report was submitted to CFR high official team members and 95% of those eligible deaths were included. Shelby County is considered the county with the highest child fatality rate of 87%, per 100,000 population, compared to child fatality rate statewide of 60% deaths per 100,000 people. The first cause of death within the state is homicide which affects children between the ages 15 -17 years old. The disparities data shows that the homicides is four times the number of black victims compared to white victims and three times the number of male victims compared to female. Eighty-six percent, of the homicides involved firearm and the CFR Team believed these homicides could've been preventable. As for suicide there's a higher rate of adolescents from ages 15 – 17, than those 10 – 14 years of age. Data shows there are six times the number of white victims than blacks and five times more males than females.

There were 33 drowning cases, 18 poisoning deaths all age groups, two times the number white victims than black victims, 11 males and 7 females and 8 of those deaths were prescription drugs. The other side to child deaths poisoning is 33% resulted in fentanyl all unintentional poisoning deaths. The CRF Review Team is seeking to provide a 2023 Prevention Recommendations on Intentional Violence such as Homicide/Suicide/Firearm, Infant Mortality and Motor Vehicle Crashes.

The CFR Review Team is seeking to the close gap as much as possible by implementing sources of strength, provide trainings to healthcare providers, increase awareness within the schools and increase gatekeeper trainings. If you would like more information regarding the Child Fatality Annual Report, please contact Chase Foster by phone at 615.253.2657 or via email [chase.foster@tn.gov](mailto:chase.foster@tn.gov).

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**Member Comments:** Announcements and Upcoming Events

- TDH Suicide Prevention Program is educating and providing a variety of suicide prevention trainings, whether you are a clinician or a non-clinical health care worker, school or college administrator and/or community member.  
<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/injury-and-violence-prevention-programs/injury-topics/suicide-prevention/trainings.html>

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**Resources mentioned during call:**

- TN Rural Health Eight Week Program Health for All: A Language Inclusion Webinar Series.  
[https://www.tnruralhealth.org/index.php?option=com\\_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=24&id=249:health-for-all-a-language-inclusion-webinar-series](https://www.tnruralhealth.org/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=24&id=249:health-for-all-a-language-inclusion-webinar-series)
- Amber Sluder, and her supervisor are Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructors if anyone is interested in East TN to hold a class, please let her know. After February they will be Adult Mental First Aid Instructors as well, her email is [ambersluder@carterk12.net](mailto:ambersluder@carterk12.net)
- Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, Navigating Support for Dual Diagnosis, scheduled **Thursday, February 1, 2024 @ 11:30AM**. The discussion is about understanding and navigating the support and needs of individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities and mental health concerns.
- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 1, 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)**

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Phone Conference ID: 641 975 577#