

Health Disparities Advisory Meeting | MINUTES

February 22, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 54 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

Motivational Quote: (LaShan Dixon) “One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody else says distract you from your goals. So, when I hear about negative and false attacks, I really don’t invest any energy in them because I know who I am.” – Michelle Obama

(LaShan Dixon)

- **Black History Month** begins and is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African American History Month. Black History Month has received official recognition from governments in the United State, Canada, and most recently has been observed in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Black History Month began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland and the United Kingdom observes Black History Month in October. Below you’ll find a link of Ten Places to Celebrate Black History Month in the state of Tennessee: <https://www.tn.gov/tourism/news/2024/1/25/10-places-to-celebrate-black-history-year-round-in-tennessee.html>
- **The International Day against Breast Cancer** is celebrated every October 19th, with the aim of raising awareness about the prevention and early diagnosis of this disease that affects millions of women and men around the world. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), breast cancer is the most common tumor, and a new case is diagnosed every 30 seconds. This disease could be cured if detected early, so it is essential to carry out periodic examinations and be attentive to possible symptoms.
- **National Mammography** is observed since 1994, President Bill Clinton proclaimed the third Friday in October as National Mammography Day. This day is important because it serves as a reminder and encouragement to women to get screened for breast cancer through receiving a mammogram.

A great way to honor you and others on this day is to prioritize your own breast health by scheduling your annual mammogram and then encourage the women in your life to do the same. All women ages 40 and over should receive an annual mammogram screening.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: State Benefits Resource for Chronically ill Patients Over the Age of 65

Presenter: Ms. Shernita Brown, Community Health Educator

Summary: Chronic health should matter to us all because connecting to state and local resources are very vital for the chronic disease and elderly community. There's a growing rate of chronic diseases in our community and we must discuss the health disparities from a chronically ill perspective, so information of resources can be provided on state benefits and made available to chronically ill adults and residents of Tennessee 65 and over. The elderly and disabled are well underserved, and most of the time they go hand and hand in state benefits for both groups. As mentioned according to the TN State Health Report there are five (5) principles for achieving better health which are the following:

- Access
- Workforce
- Economic Efficiency
- Quality of Care
- Healthy Lives

Chronic disease impacts and alters a person's quality of life in every way possible such as their identity, belief, and capabilities. Every area and of a person's life and well-being is at risk and the impacts must be acknowledged and met with resources to manage them such as declining of physical function, cognitive memory loss, reasoning, mental distress, confusion, and depression, just to name a few. The most important part to a person living with chronic disease over 65+ or younger is being able to connect with local resources to receive regular primary care visits, specialized referrals and getting connected with community organizations.

If you would like to learn more information about state benefits resources for the chronically ill patients over the age of 65, do not hesitate to contact Ms. Shernita Brown, by phone: 901.351.8829 and/or email address: incrediblemomsalliance@gmail.com.

Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events

- TRIAD Families First – Supporting Communication (Virtual Webinar) dated Saturday, February 24, 2024 at 800AM <https://www.tnpathfinder.org/view/event/5783/triad-families-first-supporting-communication-virtual-webinar/2693>

Resources mentioned during call:

- Health for All: A Language Inclusion Webinar Series scheduled on Thursday, February 29th – April 25th at 11AM https://www.tnruralhealth.org/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=23&id=249:health-for-all-a-language-inclusion-webinar-series
- If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com

Chat Box – links / website / events:

- Communal Healing Event scheduled on Saturday, April 27th in Memphis
- If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com

Next Meeting: February 29, 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#