

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting | MINUTES

April 4, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

|                    |   |                        |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| Meeting called by: | Division of Health<br>Disparities Elimination                               | Approximately: 61 ppl. |
| Type of meeting:   | Weekly Health Disparities<br>Advisory Group Meeting                         |                        |
| Facilitator:       | LaShan Dixon, Director<br>Office of Faith-Based and<br>Community Engagement |                        |

**Motivational Quote:** (LaShan Dixon) “It takes a village to raise a child and it takes a child with autism to raise the consciousness of the village.” – Elaine Hall

## (LaShan Dixon)

- Autism Acceptance Month** April 2nd was the World Autism Acceptance Day! What is Autism? Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), referred to as Autism (which includes Asperger’s Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified [PDD-NOS]), is a complex, lifelong developmental condition that typically appears during early childhood and can impact a person’s social skills, communication, relationships, and self-regulation. The Autism experience is different for everyone. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is often referred to as a “spectrum condition” that affects people differently and to varying degrees.

When family members become concerned that a child is not following typical developmental course, they turn to experts, including psychologists, educators, and medical professionals, for a diagnosis. Some people with Autism may appear to have an intellectual disability, sensory processing issues, or problems with hearing or vision, and the diagnosis of Autism may become more challenging. These conditions can co-occur with Autism, and it can be confusing to families when they receive multiple diagnoses.

However, it is important to identify Autism, as an accurate and early diagnosis can provide the basis for appropriate educational and home-based support. There are many differences between a medical diagnosis and an educational determination, or school evaluation, of a disability. While there is no one behavioral or communication assessment that can detect Autism, several screening instruments have been developed for use in determining if a child might need further evaluation for developmental delay and/or Autism, including the [Ages and Stages Questionnaire \(ASQ\)](#) and the [Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers \(M-CHAT\)](#). For detailed information about these instruments and the research behind them, [click here](#).

- Arab American Heritage Month** the Arab America Foundation formally recognizes the achievements of Arab Americans through the celebration of National Arab American Heritage Month (NAAHM). Across the country, cultural institutions, school districts, municipalities, state legislatures, public servants, and non-profit organizations issue proclamations and engage in special events that celebrate our community’s rich heritage and numerous contributions to society.

- **Alcohol Awareness Month** is a public health program organized by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence as a way of increasing outreach and education regarding the dangers of alcoholism and issues related to alcohol. The program was started in April 1987 with the intention of targeting college-aged students who might be drinking too much as part of their newfound freedom.

It has since become a national movement to draw more attention to the causes and effects of alcoholism as well as how to help families and communities deal with drinking problem. Alcohol Awareness Month gives public health bodies, community centers, and treatment facilities the chance to increase their efforts to reach people who may not fully appreciate the dangers of unhealthy alcohol consumption.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence’s (NCADD) National Network of Affiliates—launch campaigns on social and traditional media during the month of April to draw attention to the causes of alcoholism, the signs, and effects of the condition, how to talk to a loved one about a drinking problem, and how to find treatment options. Programs like Alcohol Awareness Month exist to ensure that families and communities have the resources, information, and options available to control the crisis of

- **National Stress Awareness Month** is recognized in April to bring attention to the negative impact of stress. Managing stress is an essential component of a healthy lifestyle. Knowing how to manage stress can improve mental and physical well-being as well as minimize exacerbation of health-related issues. It’s critical to recognize what stress and anxiety look like, take steps to build resilience, and know where to go for help. The Mental Health American (MHA) provides some tips on how to reduce your stress by utilizing a [Stress Screener](#). Below are healthy ways to cope with stress which are the following:

- Take breaks and disconnect from the news and social media stories.
- Take care of your body such as:
  - Eat healthy.
  - Get enough rest.
  - Move more and sit less.
- Limit alcohol intake.
- Avoid using illegal drugs and prescription drugs.
- Make time to unwind.
- Remain connected with family and friends.

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** TDH 4 Year Strategic Plan

**Presenter:** Shatoria Kenion, Strategic Operations Director

**Summary:** The Office of Strategic Initiatives is within the Department of Health, bridging TDH resources with local knowledge, priorities, and leadership in three different ways which are strategic planning, community collaboration and impact and special projects. OSI, leads the department of health strategic planning process and they recently launched a new strategic plan on January 2nd of this year, which is an inclusive process for the strategic team.

The staff is Director Olivia Hall, Shatoria Kenion, Strategic Operations Director and colleagues Glenn, Jason, and Miranda, who all play a pivotal role on a day-to-day basis. The process first started with information collected by surveying others, received 609 responses on concerns, interest, and overall feedback.

As for the four-year strategic plan, the team communicated with the commissioner and leadership about the decision-making process, goals, priorities, and strategies which supported staff within the department. The final approvals went through with the Governor and the Commissioner and with the information collected eight goals areas were covered and they are prevention, access, efficiency, workforce, engagement, excellence, equality and innovation.

In each of these areas the strategic team was able to partner with every office and division underneath the umbrella of the Department of Health and select some areas they believed should be focused on, based on, the local programs that were already in place. The areas include the quality and equality aspect, which is to eliminate health disparities and achieve positive health outcomes for all. The focus is on growing the impact of our Community LED initiatives, which starts with collaboration and access, while increasing quality care and services. We seek to be representation for all people of Tennessee, which is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all people in Tennessee.

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**Member Comments:** Announcements and Upcoming Events

- [Black Men in White Coats](#), 6th Annual Black Men in White Coats Event on Saturday, April 6, 2024. If you have questions about our chapter or events, please send an email to [healthcore@baptistu.edu](mailto:healthcore@baptistu.edu).
  - [Rural Health Association of Tennessee - Health for All A Language Inclusion Webinar Series](#) Presentations will include the following: Rural Populations, Family Structure, Age and Ability, Domestic Violence Survivors, Gender and Sexual Orientation, Body Size and Weight, Substance Use Disorder, and Race and Ethnicity. Register for the webinars below, or email [info@tnruralhealth.org](mailto:info@tnruralhealth.org) to register for all.
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**Resources mentioned during call:**

- Meharry Medical College, Cancer Survivorship Summit (Hybrid Event), Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 8AM – 2PM  
IN-PERSON EVENT:
  - Cal Turner Family Center for
  - Student Education at Meharry Medical College, 1011 21st Ave N, Nashville, TN 37208  
VIRTUAL EVENT:
  - Zoom Webinar \*Registration required for virtual details\*, Email Address: [mmcsupport@the1jg.com](mailto:mmcsupport@the1jg.com)
- Chattanooga's Men's Health Summit on Saturday, April 13 from 9:30AM - 2:00PM, Mt. Canaan Baptist Church 4801 Hwy 58
- [East TN Anti Hunger Regional Conference 2024](#) on May 21, 2024, in Knoxville, TN

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

- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)
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**Next Meeting: April 11, 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#](tel:+16292094396) United States, Nashville  
Phone Conference ID: 641 975 577#

TCCN 2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

*Milestones of Hope: 10 Years of Compassionate Care*

TCCN is seeking speakers with compelling, informative presentations that will engage and inform members.

Potential topics include:

- Innovative practices or models designed to reduce health care disparities
- Success stories and lessons learned in providing health/dental/behavioral health care to underserved populations and overcoming barriers to access to care
- Grant writing, fundraising, and nonprofit marketing/storytelling
- Strategies to improve organizational culture, address/prevent burnout, and manage compassion fatigue and secondary trauma

*and more!*

Learn more now at:



[www.tccnetwork.org/2024-call-for-speakers](http://www.tccnetwork.org/2024-call-for-speakers)

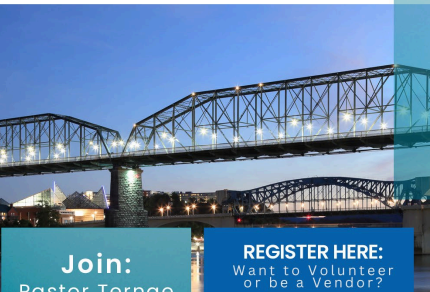
Chattanooga Men's Health Summit

MT. CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH

4801 HWY 58, CHATTANOOGA, TN 37416

Saturday, April 6, 2024  
 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM EST

REGISTER TODAY TO ATTEND



Join: Pastor Terne Jordan, Sr. & Topic Presenters

REGISTER HERE: Want to Volunteer or be a Vendor?



For More Information: (423) 541 - 5950

Even more reasons to **CHOOSE US**



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Health Educational Workshops Health Screenings

