

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting | MINUTES

June 13, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 62 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Advisory Group Meeting	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (LaShan Dixon) The inspirational quote to recognize and celebrate men’s health. “It’s never too early or too late to work towards being the healthiest man, you ever met. - Unknown

## (LaShan Dixon)

- **National Men’s Health Week** was established in 1994 as a special campaign to help educate men, boys and their families about the importance of positive health attitudes and preventive health practices. Today, the week is observed around the world as International Men’s Health Week and begins on the Monday before Father’s Day in June and ends on Father’s Day itself. The aim of this week is to heighten awareness of preventable health problems for males of all ages, to support men and boys to engage in healthier lifestyle choices and to encourage the early detection and treatment of diseases like cancer, heart disease and depression.
- **Men’s Health Awareness Month** in the U.S. is observed every June. The official symbol for the month is a blue ribbon and the purpose of Men’s Health Month is the same health concerns noted in national men’s health week, it is different from Movember, which is held in November and focuses on men’s mental health as well as prostate cancer. During the month of June, men are encouraged to set goals for their own health and wellness and begin to create a roadmap to achieving those goals and learn to take care of their bodies by eating right, exercising, and working to prevent disease.
- **Caribbean-American Heritage Month** is to celebrate the achievements and dreams of the millions of people of Caribbean descent, now living in the U.S., while honoring the shared history of joy and perseverance that has united and enriched life across our region for centuries. The mix of cultures, languages, and religions live across the U.S. and the islands reflects the diversity of spirit that defines the American story. Meanwhile, our countries are bound by common values and a shared history — overcoming the yoke of colonialism, confronting the original sin of slavery, and charting new opportunities across borders and generations.
- **National Immigrant Heritage Month** lies in its mission to promote understanding and appreciation for the immigrant experience and the valuable contributions immigrants have made and continue to make to American society. Immigrants have played a vital role in shaping the nation’s history, economy, culture, and society across

various fields such as science, arts, sports, and technology. This month-long celebration helps raise awareness about the importance of immigrants and fosters a more inclusive and diverse society. It encourages communities to celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures and stories brought by immigrants and highlights the shared values and dreams that unite people from different backgrounds.

- **Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month** Alzheimer's disease is a brain condition that gets worse over time. It may happen when a protein called amyloid continuously builds up in your brain, forming harmful amyloid brain plaque. Though there are different types of amyloid proteins, all of them can damage brain cells. Below is a few early signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's and dementia:
  - Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
  - Challenges in planning or solving problems.
  - Difficulty completing familiar task.
  - Confusion with time or space
  - Trouble understanding visual images or spatial relationships.  
Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps.

If you notice one or more signs in yourself or another person, it can be difficult to know what to do. It's natural to feel uncertain or nervous about discussing these changes with others. Voicing your worries about your own health might make them seem more "real." Or you may fear upsetting someone by sharing observations about changes in his or her abilities or behavior. However, these are significant health concerns that should be evaluated by a doctor, and it's important to take action to figure out what's going on. If you need more information contact Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 1.800.272.3900.

- **National Scoliosis Awareness Month** is severe and impacts the quality of life, putting pressure on the heart, diminishing lung capacity, and limiting physical activity. Thankfully, through early detection and treatment advances, the worst effects of scoliosis may be prevented. We are involved in all aspects of scoliosis support, whether the issue is early detection through screening programs, treatment methods, pain management, or patient care. Our focus is on promoting public awareness, providing reliable information, fostering ongoing research in the field, and educating and nurturing the community of those affected by scoliosis. If you would like more information their toll-free number, 800-NSF-MYBACK (800-673-6922), fax your questions to (781-341-8333) or email to [nsf@scoliosis.org](mailto:nsf@scoliosis.org).

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Smile On 65+

**Presenter:** Lindsay Baker, Interfaith Health Community Health Dental Coordinator

**Summary:** Smile on 65+ is to improve the overall health and well-being of older adults, by improving their oral health through awareness, accessibility, and affordability. Poor oral health can contribute and increases the chances to a stroke or heart attack, it also causes respiratory issues, malnutrition, and bacterial infections can be found in the bloodstream. Statistics, show 68% older adults have gum disease and 1 out 5 have tooth decay or have lost all their teeth.

Smile on 65+ is funded under a grant with the state of Tennessee, there are clinics located within the east, west and middle region of the state. Eligible patients must be 65 years of age, you must reside in the state of Tennessee, household income must be at or below 200% of federal poverty level and dentally uninsured or limited. The services covered are emergency,

preventative, oral surgery, crowns and restorative, just to name a few and the fees are \$25 per visit but can be waived due to the discretion of the clinic. Transportation vouchers are made available and accessible to clients, when needed. Oral health resources are also provided through Medicare Advantage Plan, Adult Tenn Care and Safety Net/Charitable Care Clinics. If you would like more information on Smile 65+ you may call the hotline at 1.800.509.6055, go to their website at [www.smileon65plus.com](http://www.smileon65plus.com) or email Lindsay Baker at [lindsay@smileon65plus.com](mailto:lindsay@smileon65plus.com).

---

**Member Comments:** Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Tri Cites Community Juneteenth Festival, Saturday, June 15th, 2024, from 11:30AM – 5:00PM, at Downtown Kingsport Association, 400 Clinchfield St, Ste 100, Kingsport, TN 37660
- Please sign up using this form link if you're interested in the Community of Practice for community health councils. All are welcome! An exciting funding opportunity will be announced on the next call, June 27th at 9:30 a.m. <https://forms.microsoft.com/g/gv6bPeL5vq> If you have any questions, please email Darla Sampson, Community Impact Consultant, at [Darla.Sampson@tn.gov](mailto:Darla.Sampson@tn.gov)

**Resources mentioned during call:**

- Juneteenth Celebration Brunch, Wednesday, June 19, 2024, from 10:30am-2:00pm at Langston Center, 315 Elm Street, Johnson City, TN 37601
- Clarksville Juneteenth Cultural Festival & Parade, Thursday, June 19, 2024, Parade at 11AM, Festival at 1PM at Clarksville Speedway, 1600 Needmore Rd, Clarksville, TN 37040
- Rutherford County Health Department, 9th Annual Community Baby Shower, Saturday, June 22, 2024, at 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Patterson Park Community Center (Adult Gym), 521 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

- TN Statewide Partnership for Community Health please register for Zoom Meeting scheduled on Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. [https://allianthealth-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ejQ4MqLaRLyzkZUe8i63qQ](https://allianthealth-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ejQ4MqLaRLyzkZUe8i63qQ)
  - If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)
- 

**Next Meeting: June 20, 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#