

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting | MINUTES

October 5, 2023, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 91 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	Mikaela Wiley Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

Motivational Quote: (Mikaela Wiley) “No matter how bad things are and no matter how limiting things can be, we can always be creative.” — Luis J. Rodriguez

(Mikaela Wiley)

- **Hispanic Heritage Month** - Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 - October 15) is an annual celebration in the United States that honors the history, culture, and contributions of those whose ancestry can be traced to 20 countries and one territory — which includes Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Spain. You may see, this annual celebration recognized as Latino Heritage Month, Latinx Heritage Month, or Latine Heritage Month. [Tennessee, United States Hispanic Heritage Month Events | Eventbrite](#)

- **National African Immigrant Heritage Month** was passed by the United States House of Representatives in 2015, making September the month to celebrate Americans who are of African Immigrant Heritage descent. National African Immigration are those who are referred to as nationals of modern African countries such as Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Algeria just to name a few. The Sub-Saharan Africans are distinct from native-born African Americans, many of whose ancestors were involuntarily brought from West and Central Africa to the colonial United States by means of the historic Atlantic Slave Trade.

Sub Saharan Africans born population in the United States has grown to 2.1 million since 2019. In establishing National African Immigrant Heritage Month, the U.S. House of Representatives recognized that “raising awareness about African Immigrant Heritage is crucial to effectively fighting the disparities within the greater Black population and is essential to building a stronger community and a stronger America.

- **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** is Public Law 176, enacted by Congress in 1945, designated the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed from the week's name to recognize the employment needs of all Americans with disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed its name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." As of July 7th, 2020, marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. Since becoming law, the ADA has helped to improve the quality of life for more than 50 million Americans with physical and mental disabilities. As a result, it is easier today for people with disabilities to find a job, to enter public buildings, and to live more independently in their communities. However, we still have a long way to go.

There are many Americans with disabilities struggling in bureaucracies of dependence, denied the tools they need to fully access their communities and the workplace. President Bush was committed to tearing down the remaining barriers with the New Freedom Initiative.

- **Tennessee Strong Families Grant Program** Governor Bill Lee announced that applications are now open for the [Tennessee Strong Families Grant Program](#), which dedicates \$20 million to improve access to maternal healthcare and boost critical resources for mothers, children and families by supporting local nonprofits across the state, including pregnancy centers. In the state's FY23-24 budget, the Governor and General Assembly funded \$20 million to create the Strong Families Grant Program and provide the opportunity for nonprofit organizations, including pregnancy centers, to partner with the state to provide support based on the unique needs of the mothers, children, and families they serve. Examples of these services include:
 - Direct services for pregnancy support, which can include medical, mental health or other counseling services.
 - Support for Tennesseans who are considering adoption.
 - Workforce assistance to prepare new moms for self-sufficiency.
 - Housing assistance to help moms in crisis find a safe and stable place to live.
 - Additional wraparound services to support vulnerable mothers and their children.

Application materials for the grants are available [online](#) where applicants may view webinars and access training and technical assistance. The grant program is just one facet of the Governor's Strong Tennessee Families initiative, which dedicated a [historic](#) investment of more than \$600 million in the State's FY23-24 budget.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: Puerto Rico

Presenter: Dr. Katherine Diaz, PH, MPH

Summary: Dr. Diaz, provided the Task Force great insight about her country Puerto Rico, she was born in a town called White JAMA. Puerto Rico is the capitol of San Juan, known as an archipelago, a group of islands closely scattered in a body of water, located between the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, east of Dominion Republic, west of Virgin Islands and north of Venezuela. Puerto Rico is also known as the Island of Enchantment, and its official national flower is the Flor de Maga. The population is approximately 3.2M and Puerto Ricans are known as Boricuas, they only speak two languages, Spanish and English. Their heritage is known as Dinos, Spaniard and African race mix, who are historically indigenous people of the Caribbean Island and just over 100 years ago, President Wilson made Puerto Ricans, citizens of the United States.

Puerto Rican culture is a mix blend of Taino, Spanish, Africans, and Americans which have united and created a unique vibrant, rich multicultural heritage that is expressed through music, food, their beautiful clothing, the colorful flowers in women's hair and the straw hats men wear. Puerto Ricans, Christmas is the longest celebrated holiday season in the world. Christmas celebration starts Thanksgiving Day and runs until mid-January. They celebrate Three (3) Kings Day, which commemorates the three wise men who visit Jesus after his birth. They have many festivals and events such as San Sebastian Street Festival, Patronal Festival, and the Mask Festival, just to name a few.

In the last few decades Puerto Ricans has migrated to the US, due to the devastation effects of hurricanes, earthquakes, and the COVID-19 Pandemic, which all created an economic crisis. Puerto Ricans have traumatized due to the natural disasters and COVID-19 have brought on higher rates of major mental depression and mental health disorders, which shows even greater rates of health disparities in chronic, infectious diseases, mental health and environmental health and injustice. Hypertension and diabetes are the most prevalent diseases and one of the main cost of the mortality for Puerto Ricans, followed by cancer.

The language barriers alone make it difficult finding employment here in the US, which adds to our stress level, but on a positive note there's a nonprofit organization here in Tennessee that serves Hispanics and Puerto Ricans communities, and they are very much aware of our culture, traditions, and festivities. This nonprofit organization encourages positivity by assisting us in achieving our goals, becoming financially free and educated and improving our physical, emotional and mental health, making sure our stay here in any part of Tennessee home.

Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Tennessee Health Care Campaign is hiring a part time Bilingual Family Services Specialist. This is an Americorps position. Please help us find a caring candidate: [Americorps Bilingual Family Services Specialist - Knoxville, TN 37921 - Indeed.com](#)
 - Please join us virtually on Thursday, October 19, 2023, **Men's Health Network** between 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST for our first CMHE Webinar "**THRIVE Vaccine Education & Vaccine Hesitancy.**" For more information the flyer is noted below.
 - Rural Health Association of Tennessee, 29th Annual Conference "Shining a Light on Rural Health: Advocating for a Brighter Future" Scheduled Date: November 15-17, 2023, to register, click the link <https://www.tnruralhealth.org/annual-conference>
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Resources mentioned during call:

- Tennessee Health Care Campaign is hiring a part time Bilingual Family Services Specialist. This is an Americorps position. Please help us find a caring candidate: [Americorps Bilingual Family Services Specialist - Knoxville, TN 37921 - Indeed.com](#)
- Data Town Hall Registration Link <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/a92b8f0c-1b1c-4713-afed-7ef27b9ec45a@f345bebf-0d71-4337-9281-24b941616c36> For more information please contact: Kendra.Middlebrook@tn.gov
- If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com

Chat Box – links / website / events:

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 - If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com
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Next Meeting: Thursday, October 12, 2023, 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#

Vanderbilt-Ingram
Cancer Center

Oficina de Participación
e Inclusión Comunitaria

LA DETECCIÓN TEMPRANA DEL CÁNCER DE SENO

Puede salvar tu vida

Charla entre mujeres para aprender cuales son los factores que incrementan el riesgo de desarrollar esta enfermedad y recomendaciones sobre la prevención y diagnóstico temprano.

24 de Octubre
5:30 a 7:00 PM CST
1505 Fort Campbell Blvd. Clarksville TN 37042



Claudia Barajas
Gerente de Inclusión Comunitaria
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Presentan:



Erika Doby
Educatora de Salud
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Evento organizado por:
Clarksville Hispanic American Family Foundation
Para más información llame al (931)218-4836

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HABLEMOS DE CÁNCER DE SENO Y COMO REDUCIR EL RIESGO

Acompañenos a una charla sobre los exámenes de
prevención temprana y como reducir el riesgo de cáncer.

Sábado 28 de Octubre
10:00-11:30 AM
917 Apple Valley Road, Madison, TN 37115

Betel Madison "POR" la Comunidad
Para más información llame al 615-612-4444

