

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting | MINUTES

November 9, 2023 | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 78 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	Dr. Katherine Diaz Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (Dr. Katherine Diaz) “Every child deserves to have a roof over their head and a warm place to sleep at night,” - Senator Manchin.

## (Dr. Katherine Diaz)

- **National Homeless Youth Awareness Month** was declared in the month of November 2007, a time to acknowledge children and families experiencing homelessness. As many as 2.5 million youth per year experience homelessness, along with losing their stability and safety, community, friends, and routines, many homeless youths are also victims of trauma. While trying to survive on the streets, youth are exposed to countless dangers, with an increased likelihood of substance abuse, early parenthood, impulsivity, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and a vulnerability to being trafficked.

In the state of Tennessee, there’s an intervention program called Homeless Students, which is designed to meet the needs of homeless children and youth and get the services needed for them to succeed. If you know of any children or youth dealing with homelessness, please contact Ms. Vanessa Waters by phone or via email [Vanessa.Waters@tn.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Waters@tn.gov) or call her 615.917.3750.

- **National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM)** is recognized in November which is a public awareness campaign designed to “shine a light” on the experiences of youth who have run away from home and too often become and remain invisible. There are many resources available to support youth in crisis throughout the nation. As part of the campaign, youth, adults, organizations, corporations, and communities nationwide work together to prevent youths from running away from home. National Runaway Prevention Month is spearheaded by the [National Runaway Safe line \(NRS\)](#), with support from the [Family and Youth Services Bureau \(FYSB\)](#). If you know a youth or family that needs assistance, please direct them to call 1.800. RUNAWAY.
- **Diabetes Awareness Month** is recognized in November, it is a time when communities across the country seek to bring attention to it. This year’s focus is on taking action to prevent diabetes health problems. Diabetes is a disease that occurs when your blood glucose, also called blood sugar, is too high. It affects about 37 million Americans, including adults and youth. Diabetes can damage the eyes, kidneys, nerves, and heart, and it is linked to some types of cancer. But wait there is hope and good news, research shows managing your diabetes after receiving your diagnosis, can help prevent diabetes health problems and you can start by managing your diabetes by using the

ABCs, (A) for A1C test or devices that's used to measure and track your average blood glucose levels, (B) for blood pressure and (C) for cholesterol. You can also make the necessary lifestyle health changes such as:

- Take small steps toward healthier habits.
  - Take your medicine on time.
  - Maintain a healthy weight.
  - Take care of your mental health.
  - Work closely with your health care team.
- **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Awareness Month** There are over 30 million Americans that are walking around with (COPD) and don't even know they have it. That's why it's so critical to review your risk factors during COPD Awareness Month in November. COPD is an umbrella term encompassing several progressive lung diseases including emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and irreversible asthma. This year, the COPD Foundation is hosting a Lace Up for Lungs Facebook Challenge along with a full month of advocacy and awareness activities, with your help, we can spread the word about COPD and chronic lung disease awareness, prevention, and treatment, and advocate for better research, funding, and support for all who are affected.

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## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, NOSORH

**Presenter:** Tammy Norville, CEO National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health Association

**Summary:** National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health known as NOSORH is member association of the 50 state offices of rural health across the country, charged with providing support and capacity to connect state offices, stakeholders and partners to resources, tools and most importantly to each other to help people find their place in rural health and accomplish their mission.

NOSORH was established in 1995, which we seek to improve health care in rural through leadership, advocacy, education, and partnership. NOSORH seeks to find ways for multi-provider and single provider practices, ensuring these providers, as head caregivers having connection and support for long term success.

NOSORH provides capacity building and support through lots of different ways, communication, collaboration, innovation, and education which is called power of rural, moving forward that allows us to rely on trusted partners to help us get the work done. This is all done with the intention of enhancing an understanding rural and providing resources to improve rural with everyone involved such as the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, PCO or Primary Care Office and even support health equity through the Rural Health Division at Tennessee Department of Health.

National Rural Health Day was created more than a decade ago to shine a light on all the positive, unique aspects of rural health and give everyone an opportunity and your state office of Rural Health to shout out the efforts and honor the rural health rock stars, through the Community Stars program. This year we have (39) that will be honored and announced on National Rural Health Day. If you would like to know more information about NORSORH, please contact us by via email at [info@nosorh.org](mailto:info@nosorh.org) or you call us at 888.391.7258.

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**Member Comments:** Announcements and Upcoming Events

N/A

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**Resources mentioned during call:**

- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

**Next Meeting: November 16, 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#

## Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment Kickoff

Saturday, November 18th  
11:00am - 1:00pm

**Free!**

**Resource Fair**  
Insurance **Enrollment** and **Renewal**  
**Giveaways** and More!

Hickory Hill Community Center

3910 Ridgeway Rd  
Memphis, TN 38115

**GET  
COVERED  
TENN**



FAMILY &  
CHILDREN'S  
SERVICE  
*A Tennessee Nonprofit*

**DIABETES  
AND  
CLINICAL  
TRIALS**

**LIVE**

TUESDAY, NOV. 14  
**12 PM CT**

**LIVE Q&A**

**Elizabeth Hart**  
Meharry Medical College  
**@TNCEAL**

**Stephan C. Sharp, MD**  
Clinical Research Associates, Inc.  
**@CRANASHVILLE**

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