

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting | MINUTES

November 16, 2023, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 66 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	Mikaela Wiley Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (Mikaela Wiley) "I'm grateful for who I am and what I have, my Thanksgiving is perpetual." – Henry David Thoreau

## (Mikaela Wiley)

- **Epilepsy Awareness Month** is a great time to learn what epilepsy is and it's a neurological disorder that causes seizures or unusual sensations and behaviors. Treatment can control episodes. Some children will outgrow the condition as they age. Epilepsy Alliance America theme for November 2023 is "Creating Connections, Building Community". They create connections for people with epilepsy and the people who love them- through support groups, community programs, educational programs, and services that connect them to resources and partners. The programs of our member organizations help to build community for people with epilepsy. It takes a village to support someone with epilepsy. Epilepsy Alliance America and our member organizations is that village, a community of support- for people with epilepsy across the country.

If you would like more information about Epilepsy, you may call Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee at 865.522.4991 or Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Tennessee at 423.380.8545

- **Lung Cancer Awareness Month** created LUNG FORCE which is uniting people across the country to stand together against lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. The LUNG FORCE Heroes inspire, encourage, and empower us to raise our voices to stand against lung cancer and with your support, we can raise critical awareness about lung cancer and turn the tide against this disease. You can always call our helpline at **1.800.LUNG.USA** and talk to our experts at the American Lung Association Lung Help Line and Tobacco Quit Line.
- **Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month** is recognized in the month of November! Project Purple is a non-profit organization empowering the fight against pancreatic cancer. Our unwavering commitment is fueled by the pursuit of raising awareness, driving crucial research, and providing aid for patients who are battling this disease. Since our founding in 2010, we've been leading the charge, pioneering advancements, and bringing hope to those affected by pancreatic cancer.

We understand the toll pancreatic cancer takes on individuals, families, and communities, and we remain committed to fighting this disease until we live in a world free from pancreatic cancer. We invite you to learn more about our organization, mission, and values. During the weekend of Nov 23-26, there's a Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Turkey Trot This virtual turkey trot is a 5k run or 1-mile walk that you can perform from anywhere in the world – whether that means from your local neighborhood, your treadmill, or even your city/town Turkey Trot 5k! We recommend running on a team with friends and family, but you can fly solo as well. [Click here to sign up or learn more](#) about this event!

---

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Maternal Mortality Review Program: 2023 Annual Report Findings

**Presenter:** Kristina Herring, Registered Nurse & Program Director of Maternal Mortality

**Summary:** The findings in this report were made possible by the Multi-Disciplinary Maternal Mortality Review Committee Chair, Co-Chairs, Epidemiologists, and Nurse Abstractors. The Tennessee Maternal Mortality Review Act of 2016 was established by the Tennessee Maternal Mortality Review Committee also known as MMRC. The interdisciplinary committee reviews, every death to improve the health of women before, during and after pregnancy, plus they contribute annual recommendations in such like reports. The first report was created in 2017 and as of today we're in our fifth year of MMRC.

The Tennessee Nonterminal Mortality Review Committee reviews all deaths during pregnancy, records are collected from multiple sources and relevant information is abstracted by the Nurse Abstractors which then is presented to the committee. There are categories of maternal mortality which specify the timing, cause of death and pregnancy deaths related to pregnancy and deaths not related to pregnancy. Pregnancy related deaths were highest among non-Hispanic black women covered by ten (10) women residing in West Tennessee and the three leading causes of death were noted as COVID-19, cardiovascular disease, and substance abuse disorder.

The Maternal Mortality Review Committee recommends the COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to all pregnant women, per CDC guidelines, and providers should be aware of the improved outcomes with the use of early ECMO which is an advanced form of life support in young patients with COVID-19, during pregnancy. From 2017 to 2021, cardiovascular deaths remain the leading cause of pregnancy related deaths almost half of all cardiovascular deaths, were due to preeclampsia eclampsia, followed by cardiomyopathy and other causes of cardiovascular death such as conduction defects, arrhythmias, valvular heart disease and hypertensive cardiovascular disease. The highest risk group was non-Hispanic black women between the ages of 30 and 39 years.

The Maternal Mortality Review Program also have success stories which are they were able to fund community grants to implement Maternal Mortality Review Committee recommendations such as TennCare expanded healthcare benefits for pregnancy and postpartum to TennCare members. Tennessee was authorized the creation of a Doula Service Advisory Committee and the MMR Program is now able to conduct interview to family members, that request voluntary participation to gain a better understanding surrounding the death of the mom. MMR continues to have a collaboration with TDH which partners with TIPQC and THA. In the year 2022 the MMR Program incorporated hospital discharge data services for case identification of pregnancy associated deaths. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Kristina Herring, RN, MMR Program Director.

---

### **Member Comments:** Announcements and Upcoming Events

- I would like to share a job opening with my company. Appreciate if you could share across your networks or consider for yourself.

Company: Equality Health

Position Title: Community Partnerships Manager

<https://equalityhealth.hrmdirect.com/employment/job-opening.php?req=2812740&&&jbsrc=1025>

---

**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: December 7, 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#](tel:+16292094396) United States, Nashville

Phone Conference ID: 641 975 577#