

# Health Disparities Task Force Meeting | MINUTES

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January 19, 2023, / 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 61 ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	Elizabeth Hart, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

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**Motivational Quote:** (Elizabeth Hart) “The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image but giving them the opportunity to create themselves.” — Steven Spielberg

**Announcements:** (Elizabeth Hart)

- National Mentoring Month / Walk Your Pet Month / National Popcorn Day
  - In February, Black History Month, we will be highlighting individuals for the 28 days of the month, and we would like you to nominate the Black Tennesseans who feel have made a great contribution to medicine and/or public health. We would like you to email the person’s biography and a photo to [tdh.ofbce@tn.gov](mailto:tdh.ofbce@tn.gov) and we will spotlight them on our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com), the deadline is Friday, January 27, 2023 at 5PM.
  - Tennessee State Loan Repayment Program (T-SLRP) provide education loan repayments to qualified primary care practitioner in exchange for an initial 2-year service obligation to practice full-time or part-time at an ambulatory public, non-profit or private non-profit primary care site located in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA). Please find application on our website at [www.healthdisparity@tn.com](http://www.healthdisparity@tn.com) and the deadline to apply is **Friday, January 27, 2023**.
  - The Office of Faith-Based Community Engagement is highlighting community organizations, every week with the Health Disparities Task Force Meeting, and we’re asking for 8 to 10 minute presentation, if anyone would like to highlight your organization, please email us at [tdh.ofbce@tn.gov](mailto:tdh.ofbce@tn.gov).
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# TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Networking and Collaborating Work

**Presenter:** None

**Summary:** Today's, discussion was about the different organizations talking about what they do and how the Health Disparities Task Force Team can assist and help collaborate working together in the communities for the Tennesseans.

- Community Rural Health for the Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge, that provide free medical care for the uninsured and underserved. We are currently fixing to launch our mobile clinic, starting the 1st of February in several different areas in the Rome, Morgan, Anderson County. We need is for you to let people in those areas know that we are here and we're here and available to help them get the primary care they need.
- The Department of Education for the state is launching, in April 2023, an initiative to increase the conversation and resources for health equity in after-school programming across our state. Dept of Education is launching an after-school pledge in which organizations are going to get a PD about health promotion. The Dept of Education is also providing aid, to make sure these organizations enroll in the summer Food Service program to make sure students are getting meals. Contact Email Address [chipper.smith@tn.gov](mailto:chipper.smith@tn.gov)
- In Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, is an area we provide technical assistance and community information to people who have questions about intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you encounter someone who has an intellectual or developmental disability who needs resources or help, you can contact the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, more specifically, we have Tennessee Disability Pathfinder [www.tnpathfinder.com](http://www.tnpathfinder.com).

If someone is looking for an evaluation, sometimes they can get an evaluation through research without having to pay for it or go through insurance. Interventions that are being studied, which you can complete through the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. We have what's called the Study Finder, you can put in whatever disability you're interested in, and pull up the research and it will also let the individual know whether they qualify or not. It's a great way to make connections with other families who have family members with disabilities and researchers who are interested in helping people with disabilities. Contact Name: Janet Shouse

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

Open Enrollment for 2023 is over. TennCare is open year-round and if you have a qualifying event you can sign up for health insurance with financial assistance via healthcare .gov. Qualifying events include:

- losing health coverage,
- moving,
- getting married,
- having a baby,
- or adopting a child

## NEEDING HELP?

- Signing up for health insurance
- Signing up for all categories of TennCare/ Cover Kids
- Signing up for food stamps SNAP
- Signing up for unemployment
- Locating free or sliding scale clinics for the uninsured
- Locating charitable organizations that can assist in paying for medical treatment for the uninsured
- Locating a PCP for your current coverage
- Answering questions about Medicare
- Answering questions about QMB, SLMB and how they can help with the cost of your Medicare
- Finding a care bed for those dealing with addiction

- CMS Federal Government Medicare & Medicaid: The Consolidated Appropriation Act came out this year, the act has a provision that's detaching from the continuous Medicaid coverage with the public health emergency, meaning the public health emergency will continue, but the Medicaid will terminate as early as April 1<sup>st</sup>. Now that we're talking about people with certain diseases and the need of healthcare and access to healthcare, I make a request that you assist those individuals because they will need help with the termination for Medicaid.

The individuals that are on Medicare and Medicaid dual eligibility, who is or were in a nursing home or they were disabled, that process is going to stay the same, but anyone that used to get our termination paperwork before will be terminated. Now our concern is that people are not used to the termination for the last couple of years and the letter might come in the mail and then they lose it and find out when they go get help, that they are terminated. So, you are the ones helping them navigate through the system and if you're having any local conversations that you want us to participate in, we'll be more than happy to participate and listen to see how we can support you. So that's what we're expecting. Contact Name: Teresa Zayas Email Address: [teresa.zayas@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:teresa.zayas@cms.hhs.gov)

### Resources mentioned during call:

- Mercy Community Health Care / Located in Franklin and Lewisburg Counties / Focus on serving uninsured and insured / primary care for adults and children / launching a new mobile unit to go into the areas of Williamson, Hickman, Marshall and Maury County and surrounding areas. Elaine Myers, Community Marketing and Outreach Specialist at Mercy Community Healthcare. Email Address: [elainem@mercytn.org](mailto:elainem@mercytn.org)
- If you need connections with the Hispanic community in middle TN or someone who is interested in sickle cell, please reach out to me, Dr. Tobi Amosun, Email Address: [tobi.amosun@tn.gov](mailto:tobi.amosun@tn.gov)
- If you or a caregiver need support, regarding Alzheimer's or Dementia please contact the Alzheimer's Association [24/7 Helpline](https://www.alz.org) (1.800.272.3900) professionally staffed offers information and advice to callers and provides translation services in more than 170 languages. Contact Name: Katrina Kimble Email Address: [kkimble@alz.org](mailto:kkimble@alz.org)
- Bethsy Harrigan / Community Engagement Coordinator / Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement / she's specifically working with immigrant and refugee populations. If anyone in your community is a immigrant or refugee, please have them contact Bethsy at: [Bethsahida.harrigan@tn.gov](mailto:Bethsahida.harrigan@tn.gov)
- Dr. Lametra Scott, Executive Director of Breaking the Sickle Cell Cycle Foundation / increasing awareness of sickle cell disease predominantly in the African American community, immigrant and refugees' population and Spanish and Latino Community
- Office Faith-Based and Community Engagement seeking for Community Outreach Worker, preferably in the East region, specifically someone bilingual in Spanish. We would like to start doing outreach in the Hispanic community, again. More information to come once we get that information posted we'll start accepting resumes.

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

- April Judkins / Rural Health TN / assist employees and community health workers and apprentices <https://www.tnruralhealth.org/> [April@tnruralhealth.org](mailto:April@tnruralhealth.org);
- Vonnie Stone, Manager of Clinical and Quality Services - Erlanger Community Health Centers (Chattanooga, TN) [vonnie.stone@erlanger.org](mailto:vonnie.stone@erlanger.org)

**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 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#