

# Health Disparities Task Force Meeting |MINUTES

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

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 87 ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	Elizabeth Hart, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (Bethsahida Harrigan) “Those who say it can't be done are usually interrupted by others doing it.”

— James Baldwin

## Announcements: (Bethsahida Harrigan)

- Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, is Red Women Day / Wear Red
- HHS Office of Minority released its theme for Black History Month “Food and Nutrition”

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Health Disparities Task Force Survey

**Presenter:** Bethsahida Harrigan

**Summary:** Today’s discussion was based around last week’s poll, and the health disparities task force four main topics which are chronic disease, mental health, infectious disease, and environmental justice and health. The two most popular topics from the poll, we’re speaking about today is chronic disease and mental health. We’re asking questions to receive feedback, answers, and recommendations from our Task Force Affiliates, so we can submit a report of recommendations to our commissioner and state legislators. Below you will find the questions that were asked, and the responses received:

Question #1: What aspect or components would the task force members like to see addressed or included in the report of recommendations to agency leadership? The two most popular topics where chronic disease and mental health, but let’s start with chronic disease, first:

List of responses for Chronic Disease:

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Cancer
- Heart Attack
- Stroke
- Autism Neurological Chronic Disease
- Chronic Lung Disease
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- STD's /HIV in Rural Health and underserved populations
- There are not of enough respite care for providing relief for the caregiver. The caregiver exerts themselves so much taking care of their family member the caregiver health suffers.

Question #2: What aspect or components would the task force members like to see addressed regarding mental health in the report of recommendations to agency leadership? Below is the list of responses for Mental Health:

- Shortage of mental health providers in the state of Tennessee
- Need to invest to increase multilingual, multicultural mental health workforce
- Provide mental health resources for caregivers
- Post-Partum Depression
- Ideas for mental health - increase access to the mental health workforce for people of color (awareness and culturally, increasing the cultural relevance resources for diverse cultures and the issues they face day to day to reduce stigma around mental health and lastly improve affordability of mental health resource

Question #3: What are some reasons that people are still hesitant around vaccines, especially moms and kids?

- Work on reducing the misinformation and miscommunication around vaccines for adults and children, through church leaders, families, peers, public health providers, health educations, local healthcare retail stores, school nurses' community leaders, social media, local media, employers, and influencers
- Have the healthcare providers, physicians, pediatricians present a "Speak Up, Speak Out Messages"
- Work toward recovering CDC creditability
- Publicize the percentages more and accurately
- Invite March of Dimes to share more
- Create a checklist

Question #4: What messages should healthcare providers be providing to pregnant women that we're not seeing or missing specifically for minorities and underserved populations?

- We would like to make certain that providers take cultural awareness for labor and delivery
- We would like to see more cultural humility training requirements for OB providers and nursing staff in women's health clinics
- Need more cultural humility training requirements for OB providers and nursing staff in women's health clinics
- Increase the uptake of the HPV vaccine to adolescents through social media
- Discussion about hypertension in pregnant mothers and how it can become toxic to the mother and the child
- Expansion of TennCare for a year for mom and child/ren for health and dental

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

- The Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge mobile clinic had a ribbon cutting on Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> and it's on the road going into rural and minority communities addressing health disparities. [oakridgemobilenurse@fmc.org](mailto:oakridgemobilenurse@fmc.org)
- If you need any information, please go to our website [www.healthdisparities@tn.gov](http://www.healthdisparities@tn.gov)
- TN Disability Pathfinder have lots of information, resources, access, support, and services available for the disabled, family members, caregivers, educators and even professionals at [www.tnpathfinder.org](http://www.tnpathfinder.org)
- Rural Health Association of TN is planning a rural road trip, if you have questions contact: [Lana.Dennis@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Lana.Dennis@cms.hhs.gov)
- Members of the faith communities: please visit [www.utc.edu/engaging](http://www.utc.edu/engaging) to learn more about the programs being offered!!
- I want to shout out the “Irth App” which is for birthing women to seek out safe care and review providers - <https://irthapp.com/> Home – IRTH Birth, but we dropped the B for bias. The only app where you can find prenatal, birthing, postpartum and pediatric reviews of care from other black and brown women. The #1 “Yelp-like” platform for the pregnancy and new motherhood journey, made by and for people of color.
- The AAP has a social media toolkit for child and adolescent immunizations as well as adolescent health care. The Adolescent Health Initiative also has a toolkit to help providers promote adolescent vaccinations in routine well visits. <https://umhs-adolescenthealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/adolescent-vaccines-hpv-starter-guide-1.pdf>

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### **Resources mentioned during call:**

- [Black History Month - Home \(hhs.gov\)](http://hhs.gov)
- Vanderbilt Kennedy Center created three videos about vaccine hesitancy for those with developmental disabilities, including autism. Two in English, one in Spanish: <https://vkc.vumc.org/news/4011> / Vaccine Confidence Videos
- If you need any information, please go to our website [www.healthdisparities@tn.gov](http://www.healthdisparities@tn.gov)
- FREE Virtual Sickle Cell Conference Health Disparities in SCD; [www.iascnapa.org/2023conference](http://www.iascnapa.org/2023conference) Registration is now open.
- PCORI – Patients Centered Outcomes Research Institute [www.pcori.org](http://www.pcori.org) is under the Affordable Care Act and this institute provides research studies that seeks to empower the patient.

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

- [Black History Month - Home \(hhs.gov\)](http://hhs.gov)
- Members of the faith communities: please visit [www.utc.edu/engaging](http://www.utc.edu/engaging) to learn more about the programs being offered!!
- I want to shout out the “Irth App” which is for birthing women to seek out safe care and review providers - <https://irthapp.com/> Home – IRTH Birth, but we dropped the B for bias. The only app where you can find prenatal, birthing, postpartum and pediatric reviews of care from other black and brown women. The #1 “Yelp-like” platform for the pregnancy and new motherhood journey, made by and for people of color.
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in routine well visits. <https://umhs-adolescenthealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/adolescent-vaccines-hpv-starter-guide-1.pdf>

- Self-Management Resource Center assist adults that live with one or more chronic health condition <https://selfmanagementresource.com/>

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 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](tel:+16292094396), [641975577#](tel:+1641975577) United States, Nashville

Phone Conference ID: 641 975 577#



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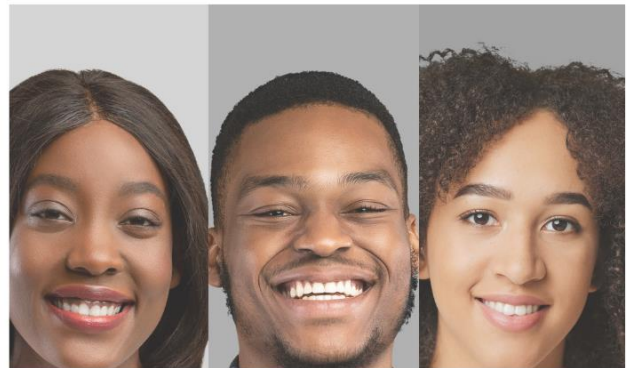


**ENDS February 26**



**ORDER**

<https://www.groupraise.com/offer-campaigns/7476>



**Bordeaux Branch Library  
Sickle Cell Blood Drive**



**Wednesday, Feb. 15 12pm - 6pm**  
4000 Clarksville Pike, Nashville TN 37218  
615-862-5856

**Sickle Cell Anemia is the most common genetic blood disease in the U.S. Blood from Black donors is needed to help the majority Black patients who are suffering with this painful disease.**

**Your blood can save lives!**

All donors will receive:

- \*\$30 in Gift Cards by email, thanks to AMAZON
- \*23andMe access code to redeem a testing kit for ancestral heritage & health testing reports, thanks to BTSSCC Foundation, Inc.
- \*Automatic entry for a chance to win an all expenses paid trip for 2 to Clearwater Beach, FL! Terms: [rcblood.org/heart](http://rcblood.org/heart)



Scan to be directed to RapidPass.



Scan to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

