

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting | MINUTES

February 9, 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:	Elizabeth Hart, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

Motivational Quote: (Elizabeth Hart) “Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world.” — Harriet Tubman

Announcements: (Elizabeth Hart)

- International Networking Week
- Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week
- Super Bowl Sunday:
 - Fox 17 will be showing TDH PSAs in Middle Tennessee and
 - Fox Network, Fox 13 will be showing TDH PSAs in Memphis, Nashville and different counties around the state of Tennessee.
- As for Black History Month, appreciate the great feedback and incredible information you all are providing us about the Black History Honorees. We have two weeks to post those that were nominated and we’re going through the list getting them updated on our website.
- The Black History Month highlights have created and started new collaborations and partnerships that have been birthed from folks realizing that there are people working in certain areas and across the state that needs to be recognized. We’ve had several requests already for contact information for some of the people who are being honored, which is “amazing”. So, if there's somebody that you would like contact information, please let me know and we'll make sure we get that to you.
- Tennessee State Loan Repayment Program provides educational loan repayment, which is a qualified primary care practitioners in exchange for an initial two-year service obligation to practice full time or part time at an ambulatory public nonprofit or private nonprofit primary care site located in a federally designated health professional shortage area. The deadline is extended until Monday, February 20th, 2023, please go to our website www.healthdisparities@tn.gov to retrieve the application and more information.
- We’re planning Dr. Alvarado to come and talk to the Task Force members and introduce himself and talk about his priorities as our new State Health Commissioner.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: The Public Health Emergency Declaration

Presenter: **Elizabeth Hart**

Summary: The Public Health Emergency Declaration is coming to an end on COVID-19, which has been in effect since January 2020, and it's scheduled to no longer be funded. The following will no longer be available which is access to free COVID-19 testing, no more free vaccines and no access to free mask. Below are the concerns from the Task Force Members about the PHE Declaration ending:

- A main concern is that people are still being diagnosed with COVID-19, going to the hospital, and dying and there will be no more access to testing
- The PHE is not enforced or in place what else is being put in place to allow folks from receiving COVID-19
- COVID-19 vaccines will be at a cost of \$175 once the PHE ends, many residents will have to choose to get a vaccine shot for themselves or purchase food for their household
- A concern folks receive reliable and truthful information from the government if there's another pandemic
- Unqualified minorities do not have health insurance coverage, and most have not received the COVID-19 vaccine or booster shots
- Many people are worried about "No Demand to Wear a Mask" and the need is still there
- Make sure this does not become politicize again
- COVID-19, two tests for \$20.00 at Walmart
- Continuous Medicaid ends on March 31, 2023

What are the needs your communities might need? Please provide your suggestions that they could try or put in place:

- Vaccinations can be provided at the different churches, pop up locations and drive-thru
- Educating all about the vaccine and getting vaccinated to prevent themselves, their family members, and others from contracting COVID-19

Is there still a demand for masks? Are people still wearing mask in the communities in which you serve, work, worship and live? Is there still a demand for mask?

- The demand is not necessarily there but the need for mask is still very prevalent
- The answer to your question is yes people are still wearing mask, teachers at child-care centers, elementary, middle and high schools, students, the elderly, those working in the medical field and those congregating at churches are all still wearing mask because the threat to contracting COVID-19 is still very real

Any concerns that anyone may have about the work force back in building's working? Congregated settings, regarding COVID-19 now that the public health emergency is going to be essentially deactivated any concerns about that, folks in sick time? Workforce regarding COVID-19:

- Health council meetings talking about long term effects due to COVID, folks unable to go back to work
 - Employers are having the employees to use their personal PTO sick time with a positive COVID-19 testing
 - Employees are opting out not to be paid, which is a concern
 - Employers going back to prioritizing productivity over employee's health
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The second discussion is the writing of the recommendations report, which has never been done before but we want this recommendations report to be reflective of the task force, in-depth and descriptive using the seven different groups, noted below, which are:

- 1) Priorities
 - 2) Community Needs
 - 3) Risk and Impacts
 - 4) Data Analysis
 - 5) Success Stories
 - 6) Key Issues
 - 7) Considerations and Recommendations
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Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events

Session title: Tennessee Statewide Partnerships for Community Health
Date: February 21, 2023
Time: 1:00CT / 2:00ET
Register: https://bit.ly/TNStatewideQtr12023Meeting_Feb21
Location: Virtual
Password to Join Event: TNPCH

If you would like to connect with me my email is julie.clark@allianthealth.org

Resources mentioned during call:

- If you need more information, please go to our website at <https://www.HealthDisparitiesTN.com>

Chat Box – links / website / events:

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Next Meeting: Thursday, February 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)

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Phone Conference ID: 641 975 577#