

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting | MINUTES

January 23, 2023, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 68 ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	Elizabeth Hart, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

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.” — Oprah Winfrey

Announcements: (Elizabeth Hart)

- American Heart Month
- National Children’s Health Month
- Cancer Prevention Month

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: Introduction to Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF)

Presenter: Dr. Ola Banjo

Summary: The information, Dr. Banjo provided today was about Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation known as MMRF, which is **the** largest nonprofit foundation in the world. MMRF is focused on increasing the cure for multiple myeloma with leadership, partnerships, and collaborations that serve patients with multiple myeloma. Their approach brings awareness to the disease and provides educational material for the patients.

Multiple Myeloma is a blood cancer disease developed in the bone marrow, which is a soft spongy tissue found in the center of many bones, where blood cells are produced. This disease causes bone pain in the chest, spine and brings on fatigue, nausea, constipation, frequent infections, and weight loss. Multiple Myeloma discharges a liquid substance which restricts the process of bone growth and repair, it’s the second most common blood cancer disease, that affects patients of color. Multiple Myeloma patients of color also have symptoms such as low blood,

anemia, weakness, decreased kidney function and bone damage. African American patients are two times more likely to develop multiple myeloma than patients of other races and have a two times higher mortality rate than patients of other races, there's also an earlier age of disease onset, multiple myeloma is a disease that is seen in patients aged 69 and above. MMRF, really focuses their mission on increasing awareness, due to the disparities that exist in African American descent patients, they notice the treatment options are not the same and under used standard of therapy.

MMRF is a instrumental in making a huge difference in patient's lives, especially in black patients. MMRF seeks for every patient to be a self-advocate and one thing the research has seen is the equal access to standard therapy proven that black patients have equal or superior outcome to white patients. MMRF, helped bring (15) different multiple myeloma drugs on the market, raised \$500M+ for research and opened over (80) clinical trials. MMRF do not perform research, but what they do is fund organizations and academic medical centers and community hospitals, which their work help increases survival rates from (3) years to (10) years.

Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events

- [engAGING Communities | University of Tennessee at Chattanooga \(utc.edu\)](#) – Answering the Call for Faith-Based and Religious Community Leadership
- TN CMS QIO Statewide Partnerships for Community Health Meeting recording (from 2/21/23 meeting) Topics covered **Project Firstline, COVID 19 Vax and Pax, Opioid Adverse Drug Events, and Cardiac Rehab**
https://youtu.be/JHfE_yuzoCU
- <https://www.ada.org/resources/community-initiatives/national-childrens-dental-health-month#:~:text=The%20February%202023%20National%20Children%27s,to%20you%20by%20the%20ADA>
- Immigrants and Refugee Alliance meets every last Wednesday, email bethsahida.harrigan@tn.gov for more information
- 13th Annual Kids and Kites Day on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Bicentennial Mall, Nashville from 10am-2pm
Purpose: Fight Childhood Obesity, Diabetes, and Physical Inactivity. If you are interested in being a vendor or know someone you could refer as a vendor, please contact Mark Lollis at marklollis1985@gmail.com
- If you need more information, please go to our TN Department of Health Division of Health Disparities Elimination Website at: www.healthdisparitiestn.com

Resources mentioned during call:

- Immigrants and Refugee Alliance meets every last Wednesday, email bethsahida.harrigan@tn.gov for more information

Chat Box – links / website / events:

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Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 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#