

# Health Disparities Task Force Meeting |MINUTES

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March 9, 2023, / 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 86 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:** **(Bethsahida Harrigan)** “No greater joy, no greater reward to make a fundamental difference in someone's life.” — Mary Rose McGeady

**Announcements:** **(Bethsahida Harrigan)**

- National Social Work Month
  - Women’s History Month
  - National Craft Month
  - National Foreign Language Month
  - Honor Society Awareness Month
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## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Discussion of two questions posed in the last Top Ten Email

**Presenter:** Bethsahida Harrigan

**Summary:** We separated (86) people or more into ten groups to discuss two questions which are: Who is the Health Disparities Task Force? What is the purpose of the Health Disparities Task Force? Below you’ll find a response from the groups that respond:

- 1) Who is the Task Force - A group of organizations and individuals looking for health disparities facing the citizens of Tennessee.

- 2) We are a collaborative of healthcare professionals and community stakeholders that examine data, trends, and the incidence of disease in minority populations to divide solutions that maximize resources to eliminate health disparities.
- 3) The Task Force is facilitated by the Tennessee Department of Health, the Health Disparities Task Force brings together community members and organizations in TN interested in improving the health outcomes for residents of TN to identify and eliminate disparities with a collaborative approach from task force members. The purpose of the Health Disparities Task Force is to collaborate with people and organizations of different backgrounds that have an influence on health equity in TN by maximizing and leveraging resources to promote health equity for all so that all may experience a high quality of life.
- 4) The Task Force is a collective of community organizations and representatives that come together to share information and best practices to help eliminate disparities across the state of Tennessee. The purpose is to help eliminate disparities across the state of TN.
- 5) The Task Force a group comprised of local and state organizations, agencies, health professionals, and community-facing stakeholders who are working towards the unified goal of eliminating health disparities. Our purpose is COVID-19 made us more aware of inequities that exist in our communities, our main purpose is to connect people to resources, hear from agencies, and allow a platform for people to connect with other organizations who have similar goals.
- 6) The purpose of the Task Force is collectively determining the issues and disparities affecting the citizens of Tennessee and searching for resolutions of these issues both internally and externally.
- 7) The Health Disparities Task Force is a group with a statewide focus and membership that shares resources, raises awareness and networks to help identify and eliminate disparities. The purpose is to serve as a forum to discuss emergent health issues and share potential solutions.
- 8) We are a health community and business community collaborating to address health disparities and share resources and closing the gap in health disparities and our purpose is to advocate on behalf of the communities while creating more inclusive creativity and awareness on resources within the communities.
- 9) The Task Force is a group of people improving health care for people experiencing disparities through sharing resources and discussion. Currently the task force is being state-run, and for them to have more of a role that is based in advocacy, there might be barriers for the task force addressing issues.

A) Please clarify what the barriers or the potential issue might be?

- There are proposals in this current legislature and actions by the administration that are exacerbating health disparities
  - Marginalized groups, such as rejecting HIV funding from the CDC
  - The ban on transgender affirming care, that's a marginalized community that experiences significant health disparities
  - Department of education funding, a Title 1 Perkins funding. Proposal could cost the department of health millions of dollars, such as the WIC program.
- 10) The Task Force is a collaboration of state agencies, community organizations and local businesses who are seeking to make an impact in health disparities by sharing resources, but also doing the work and

noticing that in terms of doing the work, it's to shape and drive change from a long-term perspective, but also to meet urgent critical needs such as COVID-19, poverty, refugee rights and etc.

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**Member Comments:** Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Moderna will still be offering free vaccines even after the government stops paying for it.
  - <https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/planning1/council-overview.html>
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**Resources mentioned during call:**

- <https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/planning1/council-overview.html>
- Immigrants and Refugee Alliance meets every last Wednesday, email [bethsahida.harrigan@tn.gov](mailto:bethsahida.harrigan@tn.gov) for more information
- If you need more information, please go to our website at: [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

- <https://www.tn.gov/behavioral-health/planning1/council-overview.html>
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**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 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#