

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting | MINUTES

September 28, 2023, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 90 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	Bethsy Harrigan Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

Motivational Quote: (Bethsy Harrigan) “When people are determined they can overcome anything.” – Nelson Mandela

(Bethsy Harrigan)

- **National African Immigrant Heritage Month** was passed by the United States House of Representatives in 2015, making September the month to celebrate Americans who are of African Immigrant Heritage in the United States. National African Immigration are those who are referred to as nationals of modern African countries such as Morocco, Libya, Egypt, and Algeria. The Sub-Saharan Africans are distinct from native-born African Americans, many of whose ancestors were involuntarily brought from West and Central Africa to the colonial United States by means of the historic Atlantic slave trade.

Sub Saharan Africans born population in the United States has grown to 2.1 million since 2019. In establishing National African Immigrant Heritage Month, the U.S. House of Representatives recognized that “raising awareness about African immigrant heritage is crucial to effectively fighting the disparities within the greater Black population and its essential to building a stronger community and a stronger America.

- **Hispanic Heritage Month** is (September 15 - October 15) an annual celebration in the United States that honors the history, culture, and contributions of those whose ancestry can be traced to 20 countries and one territory — which includes Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Spain. You may see, this annual celebration recognized as Latino Heritage Month, Latinx Heritage Month, or Latine Heritage Month. [Tennessee, United States Hispanic Heritage Month Events | Eventbrite](#)
- **National Prostate Health Month (NPHM)** also known as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, is observed every September by health experts, health advocates, and individuals concerned with men's prostate health and prostate cancer. Designating a month for the purpose of:
 - Increasing public awareness of the importance of men’s health, prostate, and cancer awareness
 - Providing easily accessible prostate health screenings and prostate cancer screenings
 - Educating about risk factors and symptoms of prostate health and prostate cancer
 - Advocating for further research on prostate health issues and prostate cancer

- **National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month** is an annual national health campaign organized by major childhood cancer organizations to increase awareness of pediatric cancer and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure.
 - **Gov. Lee Launches Tennessee Strong Families Grant Program** Tennessee Governor Bill Lee announced applications are now open for the [Tennessee Strong Families Grant Program](#), which dedicates \$20 million to improve access to maternal healthcare and boost critical resources for mothers, children and families by supporting local nonprofits across the state, including pregnancy centers. Application materials for the grants are available [online](#) where applicants may view webinars and access training and technical assistance. The grant program is just one facet of the Governor’s Strong Tennessee Families initiative, which dedicated a [historic](#) investment of more than \$600 million in the State’s FY23-24 budget.
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TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: Tennessee Birth Defects Surveillance System

Presenter: Jennifer Waldrop

Summary: Tennessee Birth Defects Surveillance System (TNBDSS) been around for over 20 years, created from a state law that requires the monitoring of birth defects in addition to connect affected families with available supportive resources. Early recognition of birth defects promotes early intervention, treatment and decrease complications, disabilities, and infant mortality.

TNBDSS monitor and track birth defects, perform enhanced surveillance in partnership with CDC, improve data quality, identify at-risk groups, develop, and distribute health promotion materials for reproductive life planning, healthy pregnancy and reducing the risk of birth defects which is the leading cause of death here in Tennessee. Common birth defects in Tennessee are heart defects, down syndrome, clubfoot, cleft lip or palate and genitourinary defects.

Below you’ll find a list, just to name a few of health promotions and prevention tips for a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby, and they are:

- Strive to reach and maintain a healthy weight.
- Stay physically active daily.
- Avoid harmful substances such as alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.
- Report any concerning healthcare symptoms to your health care provider.
- Avoid infections and seek medical care for any suspected illness and/or STD.

Noted are a few risk factors that can cause birth defects, and which are diabetes, hypertension, weight gain, low BMI, behavioral smoking, and substance abuse. Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System which is called (PRAMS) is an annual survey, that collects population-based data on maternal attitudes and self-reported experiences before, during and shortly after pregnancy. PRAMS also monitors the intentionality of a women getting pregnant such as reproductive life planning and unplanned pregnancies. PRAMS, provide community resources referrals for those needing Children Special Services, CHANT and Early Intervention Systems and Family Voices.

If you would like more information do not hesitate to go to the website www.birthdefects@tn.gov or you may email Jennifer Waldrop at jennifer.waldrop@tn.gov, Erin Hodson at erin.hodson@tn.gov or Kate Lolley at katherine.lolley@tn.gov.

Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events

- **East Tennessee Aging Symposium** – Friday, September 29, 2023, A Symposium for professionals and policymakers who want to enhance the state’s capacity to support aging Tennesseans, their families, and caregivers.

- **The Wolf River Conservancy** – Will be hosting their 3rd Annual Mental Health Awareness Day (FREE) on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 2630 Epping Way Drive, Memphis, TN between the hours of 10:30 am – 1:30 pm. Food vendors, educational resources from licensed counselors, firetrucks, music and more will be there.
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Resources mentioned during call:

- Rutherford Opioid Relief: Virtual Grant Writing Workshop on Zoom, held on Friday, September 29, 2023 10:30AM CT, Click link below to register for the free Rutherford Opioid Grant Information <https://mtsu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vceigrjMiEt3l6qiGW6a6flMYn2c9TxsI>
- The Tennessee State Office of Rural Health offering the 3RNET 2023 Academy at not cost you. Click the link to register <https://academy.3rnet.org/tennessee.html>
- **Opioid Abatement Community Funding Community Grants Application Portal** - The Portal for applications opens September 1, 2023, at 12:00AM CDT and closes October 9, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. CDT. To aid in successfully navigating the portal, Council staff have produced Instructional videos which you can watch on which you can watch on YouTube at this link.
- The Northeast Council on Children and Youth Presents: Domestic Violence Through the Eyes of a Child **FREE Event** held on Tuesday, October 24 from 9AM – 2PM at Summit Leadership Foundation, 3515 Bristol Hwy, Johnson City, TN 37601 If you would like to attend please click the eventbrite link below: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/726136302227?aff=oddtcreator>
- RHA's annual conference, shining a light on Rural Health: Advocating for a Brighter Future, is being held in Knoxville on November 15-17. Find out more and join us at <https://www.tnruralhealth.org/annual-conference>
- If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com

Chat Box – links / website / events:

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 - CHANT Referral Information https://stateoftennessee-cvlyz.formstack.com/forms/chant_referral_form
 - Beneficiary and Family Advisory Committee for the CMS QIO- if you are a Medicare/Medicaid Beneficiary or a Care Partner to someone that is please reach out to Mel Brown at melody.brown@allianthealth.org 678.527.3466
 - If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com
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Next Meeting: Thursday, October 5, 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#



All women should have a baseline screening between the ages 35 to 40, followed by annual screenings.

You must have your doctor's full name, driver's license, or state ID and insurance card.

No Insurance? No Problem! Screening mammograms are covered for eligible women year-round. Financial assistance for those who are under-insured.

No restrooms on the coach



MaryEllen Locher Breast Center



TRANSFORMATION CHURCH

7122 LEE HWY
CHATTANOOGA, TN

9/30/23

9 AM to 2 PM

To schedule your mammogram exam call

423-495-4040

More information and forms available at memorial.org/MELBCMmobile

FERIA DE SALUD



TRANSFORMACIÓN
Una Iglesia para la Ciudad.



7122 Lee Highway, Chattanooga, TN 37421

30 SEP 2023 | 9AM - 4PM



(706) 847-8443

(423) 495-4645 (registrarse para la mamografía)



iddtransformacion@gmail.com