

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting |MINUTES

December 17, 2020 / 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Via WebEx/Teleconference

Meeting called by:	Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 79 ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force	
Facilitator:	Dr. Kimberly Lamar, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Health Disparities Elimination, TDH	

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: TDH Disparities Task Force Strategic Planning

Presenter: Kimberly Lamar, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Health Disparities Elimination, Tennessee Department of Health

Summary: Today will be our final meeting of 2020. We will pick back up with meetings starting Thursday, January 14, 2021 with a more action-oriented approach. I want to start off by going over the purpose of this Task Force. Our Task Force was started back in April 2020. The immediate purpose was to address the immediate need for COVID-19 response and impact on racial/ethnic minority, underserved and vulnerable communities. We want to make sure we were collectively including the community, particularly community members working in minority communities and with vulnerable populations. Our goals included improving bi-directional communication, data sharing (collection, trends, evolving issues etc.), capturing the voice of the communities served, and generating responsive solutions and policies to reduce disparities. We will start focusing on more responsive solutions in the New Year.

We have had a lot of success and accomplishments since starting in April 2020. We have an extensive collaboration across sectors. Our members include community and faith-based partners, academia, health care providers and public health

officials, local and state government officials, including legislators. We are very intentional about membership and inclusion. We wanted to make sure we do not just look at high-level leadership in the government, but rather engaging and incorporating all sectors of every community across all 95 counties. Our messaging and public service announcements were created to intentionally represent the diverse communities that are in Tennessee. Our success with COVID-19 testing across the State includes conducting 127 testing events and testing approximately 18,460 individuals. We have been able to increase COVID-19 testing in all our 6 metropolitan communities. This also includes are larger communities such as Memphis, Shelby County, Davidson, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. We have touched 25 our rural communities that have pockets of minorities. A lot of challenges exist in many of our rural counties like access to care and testing. Another achievement has been being able to provide you all with the data sharing and transparency. This group has also been very successful with resource sharing and promotion of services. We want to do more of this as we continue over the next year. Lastly, the work we have done over the last year has really impacted TDH's intentions on advancing health equity. We have now created a health disparities action group called the HEAT (Health Equity Action Team). It is a group that is well representative of all staffing across the TDH. This group will be responsible for creating training for workforce development around equity. Trainings will be on racism, discrimination, bias and cultural competencies. We want to create a change in how we deliver our services across the State.

Congratulations! We have 3 nominations for an Emmy Award! See below.

- **Light it Up for Local Nurses**
WAFF, Derek McClanahan, Mark Strand, Patrick Akers
- **TDOH – Tennessee Department of Health Campaign – COVID19**
Motion Poet Productions, David Colon
- **TDOH – Tennessee Department of Health Campaign – Opioids**
Motion Poet Productions, David Colon

Focus: TDH Disparities Task Force Strategic Planning

Presenter: Elizabeth Hart, Associate Director, Office of Communication & Media Relations

Summary: We would like to thank everyone that completed our survey. We received 88 responses and 66 completed all survey questions. Below is a list of the organization types that submitted responses.

Academic (Colleges/Universities)
Advocacy
Community Outreach
Community-Based/Non-Profit Organization
Consulting Agency focusing on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Faith-Based Organization/Church
Government-Local

Government-State
Healthcare Provider
Healthcare-Behavioral/Mental Health
Healthcare-Clinic
Healthcare-Hospital
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Research Center
Law Enforcement

Based on the survey results we received, we have identified our 2021 priority health topics. They include chronic disease (diabetes, heart disease, obesity, etc.), mental health, and infectious diseases (HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, etc.). We are asking everyone to choose from a health topic which will be associated with an action team. Please see below the format for future Task Force meetings.

- 3 Action Committees
 1. Week 1 - Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Heart Disease, Obesity, etc.)
 2. Week 2 - Mental Health
 3. Week 3 - Infectious Diseases (HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, etc.)
 4. Last week of the Month - All members meeting

Upcoming newsletter for 2021 will include but is not limited to the following:

- Funding opportunities aligned with priorities
- Special sessions/opportunities
 - Networking
 - Grant writing
 - Student engagement in public health (youth to professional)
- Local engagement and action

Focus: Tennessee's County Health Councils

Presenter: Jennifer Trail, Community Health Assessment & Strategy Manager, Office of Strategic Initiatives, Tennessee Department of Health

Summary: Let me start with discussing why health councils are so important and impactful. When it comes to sustaining and improving the health of the population of a community, this cannot be accomplished by one organization,

hospital or health department. It requires multiple partners working together to address policies, systems, and environmental changes in order to move the needle on health outcomes. That is why you are here participating in a cross-collaboration with the Health Disparities Task Force.

Our county health councils have been around since 1990. TDH directly supports the 89 rural counties, which are the non-metro counties. Every health council is a little different in their membership make up and their mission which varies from county to county. However, all health councils involve the participation of a diverse set of stakeholders and sectors. Health councils are in the ideal position to address health disparities at the local level, particularly through planning and policy implementation. Because they are made up of the community, they are more suited to address community expectations. In order to be successful in implementing change, health councils are to develop a shared agenda. The tool that is used to share this agenda is the CHA (county health assessment) action planning process.

Now a little bit about TDH's County Health Assessment. Our goal was to have all 89 counties that we support, finish a CHA by 2022. However, due to COVID-19 those plans have changed a little. Throughout the entire focus health equity is priority.

CHA's Process.

- Identify & Invite Stakeholders to the Table
- Review Secondary Data using Common Terms
- Seek & Listen to Input from Community Members
- Establish Shared Priorities
- Develop and Execute a Collaborative Action Plan

Some of CHA's priorities of 2019 included youth nicotine use, adverse childhood experiences (ACE's), minority health, obesity, mental health, cardiovascular health, teen births, 3rd grade reading level, lack of childcare, teen births, substance abuse, community violence and access to affordable healthcare.

Focus: Vaccination Update

Presenter: Cristi Chambers, Deputy Director, Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program, Tennessee Department of Health

Summary: Pfizer vaccine has gone out to 28 hospitals which is Phase 1A. Next week Moderna will ship out on

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It will go to all the health departments, rural areas, metros, and smaller hospitals. The next phase is Phase 1A2.

Member Comments/Announcements

Summary: As of an hour ago, there is now a communications toolkit for the vaccines. If you go to www.tn.gov/health and select the yellow bar at the top, it will take you all the information about COVID. There is a category for vaccinations and there is a communication toolkit that includes graphics which are currently available in English. A Spanish version is underway and will be available soon.

Upcoming COVID-19 Testing

- **Saturday, December 19, 2020, 10:00am-2:00pm (CST)**

Shelby County

Citadel of Deliverance Church of God in Christ, 7749 East Shelby Drive, Memphis, TN 38125

Knox County

Greater Warner Tabernacle AME Zion Church, 3800 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Knoxville, TN 37914

- **Saturday, December 19, 2020, 12:00pm-3:00pm (CST)**

Davidson County

Fuente de Agua Viva, 1256 Louisville Hwy, Goodlettsville, TN 37072

Resources mentioned during call:

Jennifer.Trail@tn.gov

Jennifer Trail, Community Health Assessment & Strategy Manager, Office of Strategic Initiatives, Tennessee Department of Health

Link to COVID-19 Vaccination Resources

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/health/COVID-19/Vaccine-Information)

The VKC and Tennessee Disability Pathfinder invite you to be part of a statewide survey focused on finding the best ways of connecting individuals with disabilities, families, and disability professionals with the information and services they need. Finding good information can be hard! Your feedback will help us improve the ways in which local resources are shared in Tennessee. We need your voice!

Click here to participate: www.tndisabilitysurvey.org , and PLEASE SHARE!!

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 14, 2021 from 1pm-2pm via WebEx.

Meeting password: Health

[Join meeting](#)

Join by phone

Tap to call in from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+1-415-655-0003](#) US TOLL

[Global call-in numbers](#)