



**A HEALTHY AND FREE TENNESSEE  
IN 2018 AND BEYOND:  
BUILDING COLLECTIVE POWER**

**OCTOBER 27-29, 2017**  
**TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Avon Williams Campus  
330 10th Ave. N. 37203

**NASHVILLE, TN**





# METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



MEGAN BARRY  
MAYOR

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October 27, 2017

Healthy and Free Tennessee  
1726 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38104

Dear Healthy and Free Tennessee Attendees,

Welcome to Nashville for your first ever statewide convening!

We are pleased to host you here in Music City for this important event. As you continue your work on important issues such as reproductive rights, HIV and maternal and child health among others, it is so important to bring together the larger statewide community because your collective voice will be even more impactful than any individual or organization alone. Building collective power among multiple stakeholders is indeed hard work, but I believe that it is the only way to truly move the needle on our most pressing social problems. I often say that government cannot do it alone. We need involvement from everyone in our community to create social change.

Enjoy your convening at Tennessee State University – one of our important and historic universities in Nashville. I know they will be a good host. Thank you for doing this important work and I hope your guests enjoy all that Nashville has to offer!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Megan Barry".

Megan Barry  
Mayor





# Healthy and Free Tennessee's Mission and Vision

**Healthy and Free Tennessee** is a statewide coalition working to promote health and sexual and reproductive freedom in Tennessee by advancing policies and practices which recognize these elements as essential to the overall well-being of all individuals and communities.

We envision a future where all Tennesseans are healthy, have privacy, and are empowered to make the best decisions for themselves and their communities, within their own moral and faith traditions and have access to the resources they need to make informed choices about all facets of their lives.

All Tennesseans deserve access to affordable health care without stigma, discrimination, judgment, or punishment.

## **We believe that:**

- Sexual health and reproductive autonomy are core elements of our overall health and wellbeing.
- Sexuality is a natural and positive part of our lives.
- Tennesseans should have access to accurate and complete information about sexual and reproductive health based on the best available science.
- Tennesseans should have access to the full range of safe and legal reproductive health care services.
- The health-related issues of specific populations may differ by age, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, educational and economic status, personal values, and emotional and physical development, and these differences should be acknowledged, respected and addressed.

## **We support the right of all Tennesseans to:**

- Make private decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, free from intrusion or coercion by any government, group, or individual.
- Access a full range of legal, safe, & affordable sexual and reproductive health care along with accurate information about their health care options.
- Be treated with dignity and respect regardless of their reproductive decisions.



## Accessibility

**Tennessee State University** is accessible by bus numbers 1, 10, 17, 24, and 25. The closest bus stop to the campus is Charlotte Ave. & 10th Ave N. The campus is wheelchair accessible. There is an elevator on the 2nd floor to access the 3rd floor (where the convening sessions will take place). A lactation space (Blue Tiger Room) is located on the 2nd floor, room 206. Single stall restrooms are available near the breakout panel rooms. These restrooms will be designated as gender neutral. We have requested PowerPoint presentations and other documents from presenters in advance to make available to attendees, located in a shared and public google drive folder <http://bit.ly/2z9Y0iz>.

Meals include gluten free, vegetarian, and vegan options.

Nella Pearl Frierson will provide childcare services in the main area during breakout panels.

Matt Ferry will serve as the videographer for the convening. **If you would prefer to not be recorded or photographed, please let someone at the registration table know.**

We strive to be as accessible as possible. If we did not meet your accessibility needs, please let us know how we can improve by emailing your feedback and suggestions to [info@healthyandfreentn.org](mailto:info@healthyandfreentn.org).



# A Healthy and Free Tennessee in 2018 and Beyond: Building Collective Power - Program

## Friday, October 27th

6:00 -8:00 PM Welcome Reception/Registration

## Saturday, October 28th

7:45-8:30 AM Breakfast  
8:30-8:40 AM Opening Remarks  
8:40-9:40 AM Plenary 1: The Importance and Meaning of the Reproductive Justice Framework  
9:45-10:45 AM Plenary 2: Reproductive Justice and Mass Incarceration in Tennessee  
10:45-11:00 AM Break  
11:00 AM- 12:15 PM Breakout Panels 1  
12:15-1:40 PM Lunch and Keynote Address  
1:40-2:50 PM Breakout Panels 2  
2:50-3:00 PM Break  
3:00-4:10 PM Breakout Panels 3  
4:10-4:20 PM Break  
4:20-5:30 PM Strategizing Small Group Session (meet in AWC Auditorium)  
5:30-6:00 PM Closing Remarks

## Sunday, October 29th

7:45-8:30 AM Breakfast  
8:30-8:40 AM Opening Remarks  
8:40-9:40 AM Plenary 3: What Is Comprehensive Sex Education and Why Do We Need it in Tennessee?  
9:40-9:50 AM Break  
9:50-11:00 AM Breakout Panels 4  
11:00-11:10 AM Break  
11:10 AM-12:20 PM Breakout Panels 5  
12:25-12:35 PM Closing Remarks



# Panels and Descriptions

## Saturday, October 28th

*Plenary 1: 8:40-9:40 AM*

### **The Importance and Meaning of the Reproductive Justice Framework**

We often use “reproductive rights” “reproductive justice” and “reproductive freedom” interchangeably, but you might be surprised to learn that they don’t have the same meaning. Reproductive justice was a movement founded by women of color and specifically Black women to describe not only the right to an abortion, but the right to access healthcare, the right to parent without state interference, and many other issues affecting parents of color in the U.S.

**Panelists:** Loretta J. Ross, one of the original founders of the Reproductive Justice movement and founder of SisterSong, the first reproductive justice organization in the U.S.; Cherisse Scott, Executive Director and Founder of SisterReach, Tennessee’s only reproductive justice organization; Monica Raye Simpson, current Executive Director of SisterSong; and Reverend Faye London, Freedom’s Chapel Freedom Church. Moderated by London Lamar, Policy Associate at SisterReach.

**Room:** AWC Auditorium

*Plenary 2: 9:45-10:45 AM*

### **Reproductive Justice and Mass Incarceration in Tennessee**

Shackling during childbirth, removal of parental rights due to separation caused by the unjust cash bail system, lack of access to reproductive healthcare in jails and prisons, the criminalization of pregnancy, abortion, childbirth, and parenting, coercive sterilization in jails and prisons, punishing survivors of domestic violence for “failure to protect” their children from their abusers...these are just some of the myriad of issues affecting people who are incarcerated. This session will discuss what work needs to be done in Tennessee and help give us a framework for thinking about reproductive coercion by the state.

**Panelists:** Aniya Wiley, formerly incarcerated mother of two and steering committee member of Free Hearts; Erica Perry of Black Lives Matter Memphis and organizer of Black Mamas Bailout; Alex Chambers, steering committee member of Healthy and Free TN; Victoria Law, freelance writer and editor, victorialaw.net. Moderated by Dawn Harrington of the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Free Hearts.

**Room:** AWC Auditorium



# Panels and Descriptions

*Breakout Panels 1: 11:00 AM-12:10 PM*

## **HIV in Tennessee: Innovations in Policy, Treatment, and Destigmatization**

2017 was an exciting year for HIV policy in Tennessee and 2018 is shaping up to be even better! Come learn about grassroots and grasstops efforts to prevent and treat HIV in Tennessee. Are HIV rates increasing or decreasing and why? How has treatment improved over the years? Which communities are most impacted by HIV? This panel will answer these questions and more.

**Panelists:** Larry Frampton from Tennessee AIDS Advocacy Network; Dewayne Murrell, Christ Community; Kayla Gore, OutMemphis; Thunder Kelly(TK) Hampton, Street Works Nashville.

**Room:** 354

## **Measuring Women's & Children's Health & Well-being Against Abortion Restrictions in TN**

This panel will discuss how abortion is just one part of a whole range of reproductive health care services and how they are linked. Tennessee policymakers claim to care about the health and safety of women and children when restricting access to abortion, but what does the data say?

**Panelists:** Rebecca Terrell from CHOICES Memphis Center for Reproductive Health; Fran Linkin from Center for Reproductive Rights; Jane Seymour from Ibis Reproductive Health; Cherisse Scott, SisterReach.

**Room:** AWC Auditorium

## **Immigrant and Refugee Policy: The Shifting Landscape in Tennessee**

What are some recent issues affecting immigrant and refugee communities in Tennessee? This panel will discuss federal, state, and local policy changes and recent campaigns to expand rights for both our documented and undocumented immigrant and refugee communities in Tennessee.

**Panelists:** Karla Vazquez, United We Dream; Lisa Sherman-Nikolaus, Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC); Mary-Kathryn Harcombe, Nashville Public Defender's Office's New Americans Project; Zulfat Suara, American Muslim Advisory Council.

**Room:** Training Room 1

## **Know Your Rights: What to Do If You're Stopped by the Police/Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

This training covers civilian-police interactions on the street, in your car, and in your home. The training focuses on Fourth Amendment rights in relation to searches and seizures, and provides practical advice for getting through a police encounter safely and calmly, with your rights fully intact.

**Panelists:** Tom Castelli, Legal Director ACLU-TN; Jared Mollenkof, Nashville Public Defender.

**Room:** Training Room 2



# Panels and Descriptions

*Breakout Panels 2: 1:40-2:50 PM*

## **Y'all Means All: Fighting for LGBTQ Rights in Tennessee**

This panel will discuss recent statewide and municipal policies affecting the LGBTQ community as well as LGBTQ advocacy in education and healthcare happening statewide.

**Panelists:** Chris Sanders from Tennessee Equality Project; Marisa Richmond from Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition; Gwendolyn Clemons from The Unleashed Voice, Memphis; Ray Holloman from Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition.

**Room:** 354

## **Reproductive Justice and the Opioid Epidemic in Tennessee**

We defeated the fetal assault law in 2016, but there are still many misperceptions about pregnancy and drug use. What policies do we need to reduce opioid use among pregnant women and people? What is Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)? Is detox safe during pregnancy? Are treatment options adequate in Tennessee? This panel will answer these questions and more.

**Panelists:** Mary-Linden Salter from Tennessee Association of Alcohol, Drug and Other Addiction Services; Amber Khan from National Advocates for Pregnant Women; Carrie Eisert from Amnesty International's Criminalization of Sexuality and Reproduction Project; and Cherisse Scott, SisterReach.

**Room:** AWC Auditorium

## **Storytelling for Advocacy and Culture Shift**

This panel will cover why it's important to talk about our experience with abortion and how it can change minds and eventually even policies. Some panelists will describe their journeys from patients to advocates and how speaking out has impacted their lives. We will also hear about efforts to increase storytelling in Tennessee and how to get involved.

**Panelists:** Amelia Bonow, #ShoutYourAbortion; Poppy Liu, Director of the film Names of Women; Chrissy Green, CHOICES Patients to Advocates Program; Francie Hunt, Tennessee Stories Project and Tennessee Advocates for Planned Parenthood.

**Room:** Training Room 1

## **The Importance of Centering People of Color in Birth Work**

Women of color fare worse than white women in every aspect of reproductive health. Eliminating racial disparities in birth outcomes requires culturally-competent, evidence-based, comprehensive and cost-efficient midwifery, maternity-care, and postpartum models. This panel will discuss efforts across the state to increase women of color who do birth work and to increase access to these services for communities of color.

**Panelists:** Kristin Mejia from #exBREASTyourself, Nashville; Nikia Grayson, nurse and midwife at CHOICES Memphis Center for Reproductive Health, Terri Lee-Johnson, Founder and Executive Director of Birth Strides, and Monique Weeks from M\*Body Options Perinatal Support Services in Chattanooga.

**Room:** Training Room 2



# Panels and Descriptions

*Breakout Panels 3: 3:00-4:10 PM*

## **The Importance of Civic Engagement to Progressive Movements & How to do it Effectively**

Tennessee ranks 50th in voter turnout. How can community organizers and activists connect our issue-based advocacy to the election of candidates who will support our platforms? This panel will discuss an array of issues including the importance of the Black vote, how nonprofits who are restricted from candidate endorsements can still participate in election-related activities, how to do Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effectively so you aren't just registering new voters, but also turning them out on election day; and how progressive organizations can work together statewide with CivicTN to increase voter registration and turnout.

**Panelists:** Tequila Johnson, The Equity Alliance; Ronnie Pawelko, of Bolder Advocacy an initiative of Alliance for Justice; Elizabeth Henderson; The Wilderness Society State Director and New Leaders Council National Curriculum Chair; Kelley Elliott of CivicTN and ProudVoter.org.

**Room:** 354

## **Bail Reform in Tennessee: Why It's Needed & Recent Local Activism to End Cash Bail**

On any given day, a full fifth of the U.S. jail population - 450,000 people - are awaiting trial. Hundreds of thousands of Americans go to jail without being convicted of a crime because jurisdictions across the country rely on money bail to determine who goes free before trial. Research shows that the assignment of bail makes defendants 12% more likely to be convicted. This panel will discuss why cash bail is unjust, what needs to change, and what is happening in Tennessee to make it happen.

**Panelists:** Gicola Lane, Just City & Nashville Bail Fund; Dawn Deaner, Metro Public Defender for Davidson County; Erica Perry, Black Lives Matter Memphis; Dawn Harrington, Free Hearts.

**Room:** Training Room 1

## **Rural Organizing in Tennessee**

If progressives want to gain power in Tennessee, we can't focus only on urban constituencies. Come learn about best practices in rural organizing. Speakers include both people who live in rural areas and organize there and people from statewide organizations who do rural outreach.

**Panelists:** Aftyn Behn, Tennessee Justice Center; Pamela Weston, Healthy and Free Tennessee; Walter Davis, Tennessee Health Care Campaign; Michael Coffey, PFLAG Athens, TN; Bill Freeman, McMinn County, TN Indivisible; Joyce Washington, NW Tennessee Community Organizer.

**Room:** Training Room 2



# Panels and Descriptions

## Sunday, October 29th

*Plenary 3: 8:40-9:40 AM*

### **What Is Comprehensive Sex Education and Why Do We Need it in Tennessee?**

The U.S is experiencing record levels of sexually transmitted infections (STI) due to lack of sex education and contraception access across the country. Tennessee passed a restrictive law in 2012 referred to as the “Gateway Law” because it prohibited groups from teaching about anything that could be considered a “gateway” to sexual activity. Importantly, the law was amended in 2014 from abstinence-only to abstinence-based sex education, but what is the difference? And how do either of these differ from comprehensive sex education? This panel will discuss the U.S. and Tennessee policy environment, and how advocates, students, teachers, and parents at the municipal level are working to expand access to comprehensive sex education locally and statewide.

**Panelists:** Renee Burwell, Nashville Alliance for Sexual Health; Emery Hall, former PG-13 Players Peer Education Program Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee; Lyndsey Godwin, Assistant Director of Vanderbilt’s Carpenter Program on Religion, Gender, and Sexuality; Wesley Roberts, Science Teacher at Hume-Fogg High School, Nashville. Moderated by Elisabeth Bradner, Manager of Education and Training, Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee.

**Room:** AWC Auditorium

*Breakout Panels 4: 9:50-11:00 AM*

### **Grassroots Radical Care Collectives: How to Get Started**

Our communities are often lacking the support networks we need. Childcare collectives allow for great inclusivity in our movements. Doula collectives can advocate for and support women and people who are facing reproductive choices. Come learn about how these grassroots, volunteer-run groups started and how to start a collective in your own town.

**Panelists:** Phuong Nguyen, M.A.R.C.H. Memphis Advocates for Radical Childcare; Sarah Johnson-Barnett, CHOICES Full Spectrum Doula Collective; Lauren Mitchell, Trans Buddy Program and Co-Founder, The Doula Project NYC Co-Founder

**Room:** 354

### **When Work and Family Collide: How We Can Better Support Tennessee’s Families**

This panel will discuss policies in Tennessee that we have and that we need to help families, including paid sick leave and family leave, flexible work, pay equity, and policies that combat discrimination based on pregnancy and family status. What work do we still need to do in Tennessee so that people don’t have to choose between providing for their families and caring for them?

**Panelists:** Freda Player of SEIU Local 205; Elizabeth Gedmark from A Better Balance; Chris Sanders, Mayor’s Council on Gender Equity, Nashville.

**Room:** Training Room 1



## Panels and Descriptions

*Breakout Panels 4: 9:50-11:00 AM (Cont'd)*

### **Demystifying State Legislation: How it Works and How to Influence It**

The state legislative process can be intimidating and it's not always clear how to plug in. But we need more regular people engaging and working to influence the outcome. This panel will help simplify and demystify the legislative process so that you feel more confident taking part.

**Panelists:** Danielle Johns, Policy Director Advocates for Women's and Kids' Equality (AWAKE); Brenda Gadd, Hancock & Gadd Public Strategies; Beth Joslin Roth, Policy Director The Safe Tennessee Project.

**Room:** Training Room 2

*Breakout Panels 5: 11:10 AM-12:20 PM*

### **Building the Progressive Bench in TN: Recruiting, Training, Funding, & Running Progressive Leaders**

In addition to organizing and crafting good policy, the progressive movement also needs to elect candidates who support our issues. This panel will discuss the various ways people are organizing around the state to create better candidates and to train progressives on what it takes to run a campaign.

**Panelists:** Eric Brown, New Leaders Council; London Lamar, Tennessee Young Democrats; Sarah McCall, Women for Tennessee's Future.

**Room:** 354

### **Fighting the Confederacy in Tennessee**

This panel will discuss recent efforts to remove Confederate symbols from public parks and buildings including Take 'Em Down 901 in Memphis, #BustTheBust of Nathan Bedford Forrest in the state capitol, and efforts in Chattanooga to remove a statue of Confederate Lt. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart from outside the front of the Hamilton County courthouse.

**Panelists:** Tami Sawyer, Take 'Em Down 901, Memphis; Beth Foster, Mercy Junction Justice and Peace Center, Chattanooga; Dixon Irene, Showing Up For Racial Justice (SURJ) Nashville.

**Room:** Training Room 1

### **Best Practices in Youth Organizing**

This panel will feature youth who will discuss their work as peer organizers.

**Panelists:** Dae Iddings, JUMP (Jóvenes Unidos por un Mejor Presente); Shawn Reilly, Advocates for Youth; Airinite Haymer, PG-13 Players Peer Education Program Planned Parenthood of Middle and East Tennessee and Student of Stonewall at the Oasis Center; Hayden Troup, Student of Stonewall at the Oasis Center alum and ACLU-TN intern.

**Room:** Training Room 2



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