

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting |MINUTES

February 29, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 55 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (LaShan Dixon) “Don’t put your life on hold waiting for the perfect moment. If we wait until the time is right, we might be waiting forever, take a LEAP of faith and do it now!!!” - Unknown (LaShan Dixon)

- **Black History Month** begins and is an annual observance originating in the United States, where it is also known as African American History Month. Black History Month has received official recognition from governments in the United State, Canada, and most recently has been observed in Ireland and the United Kingdom. Black History Month began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland and the United Kingdom observes Black History Month in October. Below you’ll find a link of Ten Places to Celebrate Black History Month in the state of Tennessee: <https://www.tn.gov/tourism/news/2024/1/25/10-places-to-celebrate-black-history-year-round-in-tennessee.html>
- **American Heart Month** below are seven ways for you to “Love Your Heart.”
  - Get Active - Stay Active
  - Eat Well
  - Control Cholesterol
  - Manage Blood Pressure
  - Reduce Blood Sugar
  - Lose Weight
  - Quit Smoking
- **Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month (TDVAM)** is an issue that impacts everyone – not just teens – but their parents, teachers, friends, and communities as well. Together, we can raise the nation’s awareness about teen dating violence and promote safe, healthy relationships. Nationwide, youth ages 12 to 19 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault. Studies show that approximately 10% of adolescents report being the victim of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner during the previous year. Girls are particularly vulnerable to experiencing violence in their relationships and are more likely to suffer long-term behavioral and health consequences, including suicide attempts, eating disorders, and drug use.

Adolescents in abusive relationships often carry these unhealthy patterns of violence into future relationships. Indeed, children who are victimized or witness violence frequently bring this experience with them to the playground, the classroom, later into teen relationships and, ultimately, they can end up the victims and perpetrators of adult intimate partner violence. Everyone can make a difference by reaching out to young people in simple ways, by talking to teens:

- Discuss the warning signs of dating abuse (all kinds, not just physical abuse).
- Create a positive connection to the issue – talk about the characteristics of healthy teen relationships, not just abusive ones.
- Talk about how the media portrays healthy and unhealthy relationships. For example, many popular movies, TV shows, commercials, and books portray stalking as romantic or harmless when it is actually very dangerous.
- Get involved even if you don't have a lot of resources – an information table, classroom discussion, or school announcement can get the conversation started.

If you know of a teen or parent that could benefit from speaking to a caring, well-trained peer advocate, please connect them with the **National Dating Abuse Helpline**, a project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, at **1-866-331-9474 (TTY: 1-866-331-8453)**, by **texting "loveis" to 77054**, or through live **chat at [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org)**.

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## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Health Council Community of Practice (CoP)

**Presenter:** Atlee Tyree, Community Engagement Strategist

**Summary:** The Health Council Community of Practice (CoP) is a combination of groups of people who share a passion for (health) of which they do and learn how to practice health better together, it also includes diverse groups of local affiliates, that are community-led, seeking to advance health priorities identified by the community and creating partnerships from a wide range of sectors such as (health departments) in the 95 counties of Tennessee.

The purpose of the Health Council Community of Practice (CoP) is for starters to:

- Educate – collect and share information from experts and peers.
- Support – organize peer interactions and collaboration.
- Cultivate – assist groups to start and sustain learning experiences.
- Encourage – promote the work being done through discussions.
- Integrate – encourage members to use the new knowledge for change in their own work.

The Health Council have monthly virtual meetings in the different counties, which provides open communication for the community voice to be heard on subject matters which pertains to them, and the following locations and subjects are:

- McMinn County: Move with the Mayor Program
- Cocke County: Garden of Eat'n
- Trousdale County: Mental Health Task Force
- Campbell County: Elder Abuse Awareness Campaign
- Training is also provided thru Tennessee Vitality Toolkit

CoP Spring Summits at the following locations and dates noted below:

- West: Friday, April 12 in Jackson
- Middle: Thursday, April 25 in Lebanon
- East: Thursday, May 2 in Knoxville

If you have any questions in regard to the information provided do not hesitate to contact Ms. Atlee Tyree, Community Engagement Strategist by via email: [atlee.tyree@tn.gov](mailto:atlee.tyree@tn.gov).

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**Member Comments:** Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Graduating High School Seniors to apply for college scholarships through the <https://dixoncarterfund.com/application>

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**Resources mentioned during call:**

- Tennessee Department of Health County Health Council Newsletter Sign Up - <https://www.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=febbcc82fb03ea86f7e6e720e&id=4377205bb0>
- Health Council CoP 2024 Spring Summit Series: WEST Tennessee Region - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-council-cop-2024-spring-summit-series-west-tennessee-region-tickets-801880806077?aff=oddtcreator>
- A eight-week webinar series, "Health for All: A Language Inclusion Webinar Series to discuss varying populations within our rural communities that experience a larger gap in health disparities - [https://www.tnruralhealth.org/index.php?option=com\\_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=23&id=249:health-for-all-a-language-inclusion-webinar-series](https://www.tnruralhealth.org/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=23&id=249:health-for-all-a-language-inclusion-webinar-series)
- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)
- Tennessee Department of Health County Health Council Newsletter Sign Up - <https://www.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=febbcc82fb03ea86f7e6e720e&id=4377205bb0>
- Health Council CoP 2024 Spring Summit Series: WEST Tennessee Region - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/health-council-cop-2024-spring-summit-series-west-tennessee-region-tickets-801880806077?aff=oddtcreator>
- A eight-week webinar series, "Health for All: A Language Inclusion Webinar Series to discuss varying populations within our rural communities that experience a larger gap in health disparities - [https://www.tnruralhealth.org/index.php?option=com\\_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=23&id=249:health-for-all-a-language-inclusion-webinar-series](https://www.tnruralhealth.org/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=01&day=23&id=249:health-for-all-a-language-inclusion-webinar-series)

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**Next Meeting: March 7, 2024, 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#