

Health Disparities Advisory Meeting |MINUTES

March 14, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 60 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

Motivational Quote: (LaShan Dixon) “The food we eat can be the safest, most powerful form of medicine or the slowest form of poison.” – Ann Wigmore

(LaShan Dixon)

- **National Nutrition Month** started in 1973 as National Nutrition Week, and it became a month-long observance in 1980 in response to growing interest in nutrition. This year’s theme for National Nutrition Month is "Beyond the Table", which emphasizes the farm-to-fork approach to nutrition, from food production and distribution to navigating grocery stores, farmer’s market, home, food safety, storage practices and healthy eating habits.

The next advisory committee meeting is:

- Thursday, May 30th, 2024
- Thursday, September 26, 2024

If you like to receive email updates on the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, upcoming meetings and other related news please click the link below.

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USOPHSODPHPHF/subscriber/new?topic_id=USOPHSODPHPHF_146

- **Brain Injury Awareness Month** provides an important opportunity to bring attention and prevention to traumatic brain injury (TBI) and promote strategies to improve the quality of life for persons living with TBI and their families. TBIs, caused by an impact or force to the head or body or a penetrating injury to the head, affect millions of U.S. persons each year. Falls are a leading mechanism of TBI, and older adults are at increased risk for sustaining a TBI and experiencing TBI-associated adverse outcomes. The largest increases in fall related TBI deaths occurred among persons aged 75 years or older.

Evidence-based prevention efforts to decrease falls are important to reducing the incidence of TBI among older adults. CDC’s STEADI (Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries; <https://www.cdc.gov/steady/index.html>) initiative includes resources and tools for health care providers to improve identification of patients at risk for a fall, as well as effective strategies to reduce the risk for fall-related injuries. If you would like to receive more information you may go to Brain Injury Association website <http://braininjurytenn.org> or contact the organization within the state of Tennessee by phone 1.800.444.6443 or via email at info@braininjurytenn.org.

- **National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month** is spreading the word about the importance of getting regular colorectal cancer screenings, at age 45 years old. Colorectal Cancer is also known as bowel or colon cancer, which starts in the colon or rectum. It often begins as a growth called a polyp. Over time, some polyps can become cancerous. Symptoms may include changes in bowel habits, blood in the stool, and abdominal discomfort. Early detection through screenings is vital for effective treatment and improved outcomes.
-

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: The UNITY in Community: The Community Outreach Efforts of Meharry Medical College

Presenter: Majornette Jefferson, Director of Community Affairs

Summary: Meharry Medical College was found in 1876, at the end of the civil war, their motto is a global health academic science center, advancing in health equity through innovative research, transformative education, exceptional and compassionate health services, and policy influencing through leadership. Empowering diverse populations to improve the well-being of humankind. Meharry has five (5) schools of study, and they are the following:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Graduate Studies
- Applied Computational Sciences and
- Global Health

Meharry have other specialties in primary care fields such as ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, psychiatry, and neurosurgery, they have residency which include John Hopkins, Duke, Harvard, Yale, Mayo Clinic, Vanderbilt, and many others. There are 8, 000 alumni's that practice in the US and most of them serve in underserved communities. Meharry is coming up on 150 years of training black physicians, dentist, and researchers, they are a United Methodist Church related institution and their motto is "Worship of God is through service of mankind."

Meharry has a Department of Community Engagement which provides a pipeline of programming that offers many opportunities to the students in different communities of the Nashville with a list of events such as G.O.A.L.S. with Ascension Foundation, Career Speaker with Local School & Power Youth Internship Program with the Nashville Mayor's Office just to name a few. Meharry also have career speaker series with local schools and black male and black female steam summits. The community engagement department strategically communicates and build relationships through engagement amongst middle and high schools, local and state affiliates, communities, and many different organizations to influence the growth, exposure and resources of Meharry Medical College.

If you would like more information, please contact Ms. Majornette Jefferson by phone: 615.327.5935 or via email at mjefferson@mmc.edu.

Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events

2024 Spring Regional Events – free for members and \$25 for non-members, a networking lunch is included.

- East Tennessee Regional Event on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 9AM - 3PM EST
- West Tennessee Regional Event on Tuesday April 09, 2024, 9AM - 3PM CST
- Middle Tennessee Regional Event on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 9AM – 3PM CST

Please click the link below for registration:

https://www.tnruralhealth.org/index.php?option=com_dailyplanetblog&view=entry&year=2024&month=03&day=01&id=248:regional-events

Resources mentioned during call:

- Black Men in White Coats Baptist Health Sciences University Event held on April 6, 2024 – please click the link to register. <https://www.baptistu.edu/BaptistUHealthCORE/BMIWC>
- Power Youth Summer Employment Initiative, the application portal is open until May 18, 2024 – please click the link to get started <http://POWERYouth.Nashville.Gov>
- If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com

Chat Box – links / website / events:

- If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com
 - Black Men in White Coats Baptist Health Sciences University Event held on April 6, 2024 – please click the link to register. <https://www.baptistu.edu/BaptistUHealthCORE/BMIWC>
 - Power Youth Summer Employment Initiative, the application portal is open until May 18, 2024 – please click the link to get started <http://POWERYouth.Nashville.Gov>
-

Next Meeting: March 21, 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)

[+1 629-209-4396, 641975577#](#) United States, Nashville
Phone Conference ID: 641 975 577#