

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting |MINUTES

June 27, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

|                    |   |                        |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| Meeting called by: | Division of Health<br>Disparities Elimination                               | Approximately: 52 ppl. |
| Type of meeting:   | Weekly Health Disparities<br>Advisory Group Meeting                         |                        |
| Facilitator:       | LaShan Dixon, Director<br>Office of Faith-Based and<br>Community Engagement |                        |

**Motivational Quote:** (LaShan Dixon) The inspirational quote to recognize and celebrate Self Love. “The minute you learn to love yourself you will never want to be anyone else.” – Rhianna

## (LaShan Dixon)

- **Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week** is in recognition and celebration of the achievements of people who are Deaf-Blind. The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths & Adults (HKNC), year marks the 40th anniversary of this national advocacy campaign which has been held since 1984 when then-President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation in recognition of this special week. The purpose of Deaf-Blind Awareness Week is to raise public awareness about individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss.

In 2024, we will celebrate Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week from June 23rd to June 30th. This year’s campaign focuses on the diverse journeys and shared aspirations of Deaf-Blind individuals and HKNC partners helped them as they navigate life’s pathways towards greater independence, meaningful employment, and achieving their personal milestones. Through personalized support and specialized training, HKNC equips Deaf-Blind individuals with the skills and confidence needed to overcome barriers and embrace opportunities.

HKNC is the only national agency that provides information, referrals, support, and a Comprehensive Vocational and Rehabilitation Program to Deaf-Blind youths and adults who have a combined hearing and vision loss. HKNC also provides support to the families and professionals who work with them. HKNC encourage you to raise public awareness about individuals who are Deaf-Blind by downloading and sharing our campaign graphic <https://www.helenkeller.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/DBAW24-Social-Share-Graphic-819x1024.jpg> on social media. Use the hashtag #DBAW24, and tag @helenkellerservices.

- **National HIV Testing Day (NHTD)** was first observed on June 27, 1995. This is a day to encourage people to get tested for HIV, know their status, and get linked to care and treatment. HIV testing, including self-testing, is the pathway to engage people in care of keeping themselves healthy, regardless of their test result. The theme for 2024, “Level up your self-love: check your status” emphasizes valuing yourself, showing yourself compassion and respect, and honoring your health needs with self-love.

People who receive a negative test result can take advantage of HIV prevention tools such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), condoms, and other sexual health services such as vaccines and testing for sexually transmitted infections. People who receive a positive test result can rapidly start HIV treatment (antiretroviral therapy, or ART) to stay healthy.

The [National HIV/AIDS Strategy](#) and the [Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. Initiative](#) continue to guide efforts to help us reach all people who can benefit from HIV prevention and care. HIV self-testing like [TogetherTakeMeHome](#) (TTMH) which is a link to help provide free testing to people who do not have easy access to in-person testing services and can reduce stigma for those who may be reluctant to go for an in-person HIV test.

- **National PTSD Awareness Day** Last week we learned that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which is a mental health condition triggered by a terrifying event, experienced, or witnessed. Today we're to learn about some common symptoms associated with the disorder such as:

**Intrusive Memories:**

- Recurrent, distressing memories of the traumatic event.
- Flashbacks where you relive the trauma as if it's happening again.
- Upsetting dreams or nightmares related to the event.

**Avoidance:**

- Trying to avoid thinking or talking about the traumatic experience.
- Avoiding places, activities, or people that remind you of the event.

**Negative Changes in Thinking and Mood:**

- Negative thoughts about yourself, others, or the world.
- Hopelessness about the future.
- Memory problems related to the trauma.
- Feeling emotionally detached from family and friends.

**Changes in Physical and Emotional Reactions (Arousal Symptoms):**

- Being easily startled or frightened.
- Constantly being on guard for danger.
- Trouble sleeping and concentrating.
- Irritability, anger, or aggressive behavior.
- Overwhelming guilt or shame.

Remember seeking effective treatment is crucial if you experience persistent symptoms interfering with your daily life, consult a healthcare provider for guidance and support. If you or someone you know is struggling with PTSD, consider reaching out to a mental health professional for assistance.

## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening Program (TBCSP)

**Presenter:** Maria Campos Araujo, TBCSP Manager

**Summary:** The Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening Program has been federally funded as a grantee and in operation since 1994. The mission for this program is to provide preventative health and diagnostic screenings for any abnormal

findings to eligible men and women of Tennessee. The goal is to decrease morbidity and mortality by increasing early detections and improve screening rates, which will decrease health disparities across the state of Tennessee, however for this to take place all partners must be in full participation. Within the 23 years of service the breast and cervical screening program has served over 16,714 women, 14,600 were breast services and 164 diagnosed with breast cancer. As for the cervical services the program served 5,700 women and 157 were diagnosed as precancerous and cancerous. Since 2022, an 18% increase overall, 45% for Hispanic women and 27% for African American women.

This program has three requirements which are patients served must be low-income, uninsured, and underinsured and a Tennessee resident. Medicaid and TennCare insurance are partners that works really close with the program. The screening program believes navigation is the key for patients to services needed, which can help identify, overcome barriers, and eliminate health disparities. The biggest goal is to help support the development of tailored individuals and to improve the screening program along with expanding the program to reach Spanish speaking individuals. If you would like more information do not hesitate to contact Ms. Maria Campos Araujo by email at [maria.camposaraujo@tn.gov](mailto:maria.camposaraujo@tn.gov) or you may call her by phone at 615.927.2692. You may also click the link to view the website <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/rwh/tbcsp/breast-cancer-disparities.html>.

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#### ***Member Comments:*** Announcements and Upcoming Events

- The Tennessee Department of Health's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and the Youth Engagement Workgroup is excited to invite you (or your institution) to the 5th Annual Youth Conference. This year's conference will focus on helping youth and families navigate the barriers associated with labeling. The conference will take place on August 2, 2024, at Tennessee State Library and Archives from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM and will feature keynote speakers, a youth-led panel, topic-related youth poets and interactive breakout sessions. Please find the flyer attached for more details. Remember to scan the QR code on the flyer to register for the event. [YAC Conference Flyer Final.pdf](#)

#### **Resources mentioned during call:**

- On Friday, June 28, 2024, 1:30PM to 4:30PM the Muslim Community of Knoxville is offering a Health & Resource Fair at 100 13th Street, Knoxville, TN 37916
- On Saturday, June 29, 2024, 8:00AM to 2:00PM, Ascension Saint Thomas, conducting Medical Mission at Home at the National Fairgrounds, 625 Smith Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203
- On Saturday, June 29, 2024, 10:00AM to 3:00PM, HBCU Wellness Project, Health & Wellness Community Expo, at West Eastland Church of Christ, 342 W. Eastland Street, Gallatin, TN 30766
- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

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- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)
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**Next Meeting: July 11, 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#