

Health Disparities Advisory Meeting | MINUTES

July 25, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 49 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Advisory Group Meeting	
Facilitator:	Mikaela Wiley Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

Motivational Quote: (Mikaela Wiley) The inspirational quote to recognize National Schizophrenia Awareness Day. “If you are a person with mental illness, the challenge is to find the life that’s right for you. But in truth, isn’t that the challenge for all of us, mentally ill or not? My good fortune is not that I’ve recovered from mental illness. I have not, nor will I ever. My good fortune lies in having found my life.” — Elyn R. Saks, Autobiography “The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness.”

(Mikaela Wiley)

- **Latino Conservation Week** Started in 2014, it is an initiative of the Hispanic Access Foundation, an official National Park Service partner, to support the Latino community getting outdoors and participating in activities such as kayaking, hiking, soccer, nature walks and cleaning up parks to protect our natural resources.

Since the beginning, there have been hundreds of programs and special events nationwide to celebrate Latino heritage. [Hispanic Access Foundation](#) announces as of today, its 2024 [Latino Conservation Week](#) will take place September 14 - 22, 2024. The Latino Conservation Week was previously held in July, but the change in dates resulted from feedback received from attendees due to the climate change and driven extreme heat.

National Park Service parks, programs, and partners are hosting in-park and virtual events, if you like to attend in your area, please click the link <https://latinoconservationweek.com/>.

- **National Schizophrenia Awareness Day** What is Schizophrenia? Schizophrenia is a mental health disorder characterized by delusions, hallucinations, disorganized thoughts, speech, and behavior. Medical experts, healthcare professionals and researchers don’t know exactly what causes schizophrenia, but what experts do know that schizophrenia can be caused or triggered by a combination of factors:
 - Genetics - Someone might be at a higher risk to develop schizophrenia, if it runs in their family’s genes, and/or if they have a naturally occurring imbalance of certain chemicals in the brain.

- Environment - In combination with genetic factors, schizophrenia might be triggered by exposure to certain environmental risk factors, like stress, toxins or viruses during brain development, a head injury, or use of certain types of drugs.

Only healthcare professionals can make a schizophrenia diagnosis and this process takes time which typically includes:

- Physical exam, tests, and screenings to rule out other conditions that could cause similar symptoms.
- An evaluation with someone specially trained in mental health asking series of questions to make observations and determine if the diagnostic criteria established by the American Psychiatric are met.

Most people with schizophrenia are non-violent. Overall, people with schizophrenia are more likely to be harmed by those without the illness. The risk of self-harm and violence to others is greater when the illness is untreated or occurs with alcohol or substance misuse. It is important to help people who are showing symptoms and get treatment as quickly as possible. Many people who receive treatment can engage in school or work, achieve independence, and enjoy personal relationships. If you would like more information, click the link www.treatyourschizophrenia.com.

- **Sarcoma and Bone Cancer Awareness Month** is a general term for a broad group of cancers that begin in the bones and in the soft tissues of the body, it's a rare cancer and can be misdiagnosed due to symptoms being so vague or like other conditions. Soft tissue sarcoma forms in the tissues that connects, support and surround other body structures. This includes muscle, fat, blood vessels, nerves, tendons, and the lining of your joints. There are more than 70 types of sarcomas such as Ewing Sarcoma, Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST) and Osteosarcoma, just to name a few. Treatment for sarcoma varies depending on sarcoma type, location, and other factors. Below are signs and symptoms of sarcoma which are:
 - Lumps felt through the skin
 - An unexpected broken bone
 - Abdominal pain and
 - Weight loss

It's not clear what causes most sarcomas, but what's known about most cancers is that mutation takes place in the DNA, within the cells and mutation will grow and divide uncontrollably while normal and healthy cells die. If this happens, the accumulating abnormal cells can form a tumor. Tests and procedures are used to diagnose sarcoma to determine its stage. Once your doctor determines you have sarcoma, he or she might recommend additional tests to look for signs that the cancer has spread. If you like to know more about sarcoma, please click the link [Sarcoma Symptoms, Types, Causes, Treatments \(webmd.com\)](http://Sarcoma Symptoms, Types, Causes, Treatments (webmd.com)).

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: Language Matters: Shifting Words and Shrinking Stigma

Presenter: Amber Coyne, Syndemic Coordination Director at Tennessee Department of Health

Summary: Today's presentation was about, why language matters and how language can play an important role in shrinking stigma. There are harmful and uncomfortable words and phrases healthcare providers say to or about their patients, such as it's your fault, you need to lose weight, or being very brief and not saying anything at all about the issue at

hand can be just as harmful to the patient as well. Language also matters because it can display hidden, negative, and explicit messages when spoken to a person. Negative attitudes and negative words increase stigma which will prevent a person from getting the assistance they need, plus it will create miscommunication when discussing topics such as addictions, STDs, HIV or even something as typical as weight loss.

Language is ever evolving and is well received and accepted when folks use the first-person language which will emphasize the person and not their condition. First-person language will reduce negative associations such as unnecessary labeling, it will avoid derogatory attitudes, and it will also destigmatize and remove discrimination against or about a person. If you like to learn more about why language matters, shifting words and shrinking stigma, do not hesitate to contact Amber Coyne via email at amber.coyne@tn.gov.

Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events

- [Cancer Control and Care in Rural Communities: A National Rural Cancer Control Conference](#), Hosted by Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center, August 8-9, 2024, 1112 Jefferson Street, Nashville, TN 37217

Resources mentioned during call:

- Come join us on Saturday, July 27, 2024, between 10AM – 2PM at Mount Zion Health & Wellness Back to School Event at Mt. Zion Nashville, Nashville, TN 37217
- Come out on July 31st, 2024, from 9AM-1PM CDT and attend Marion County “Give a Child a Chance Drive-Thru Event” at Chattanooga State Kimball - Free Backpacks and School Supplies, while supplies last.
- McDonald Mission Center, Back to School, End of Summer Carnival, on Saturday, August 3 from 10AM – 1PM, located at 75 Ailshie Lane, Mohawk, TN 37810
- Conexion Americas, Back to School, Saturday, August 3rd from 9AM – 1PM at 2195 Nolensville Pike, Nashville, TN 37211
- Dickson Community, Baby Shower, Saturday, August 3rd at 10AM located at the Dickson County Fairgrounds, 1053 Highway 47 E, Dickson, TN 37055
- If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com

Chat Box – links / website / 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](#)
 - TN Charitable Care Network is looking for organizations that would be interested in connecting with our members by exhibiting at our upcoming Annual Conference September 3 – 5. If you need more information, please click the link <https://www.tccnetwork.org/2024-sponsors-and-exhibitors-application.html>
 - This event will provide resources, education, and fun for the entire family, please come out and attend the Marion County Community Health Expo – Saturday, September 28th from 9AM – 1PM CST at Courthouse Square, Jasper, TN 37347
 - If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com
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Next Meeting: August 1, 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#