

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting |MINUTES

August 8, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 50 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Advisory Group Meeting	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote:** (LaShan Dixon) The inspirational quote for today is, “Nothing is impossible, the word itself says, I’m possible!” - Audrey Hepburn

## (LaShan Dixon)

- **Children’s Eye Health and Safety Month** Prevent Blindness has declared August as Children’s Eye Health and Safety month to raise awareness about the importance of eye health in children's development and to educate parents and caregivers on ways to keep children’s eyes healthy. Prevent Blindness offers free resources including fact sheets, toolkits, and webpages on a variety of topics, including myopia (nearsightedness), amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (crossed eyes). Eye safety is in relation to digital screen time, importance of vision screenings, financial assistance programs, and much more. [Your Child's Sight - Prevent Blindness](#)
- **National Breastfeeding Month (NBM)**, On August 6, 2011, the USBC officially declared August as National Breastfeeding month each August the USBC hosts a social media advocacy and outreach campaign inviting member organizations, breastfeeding coalitions, and individuals to participate in online action and conversations about the policy and practice changes needing to build support for babies and families.

The 2024 NBM theme, Nourish, Sustain, Thrive, will shine a light on why protecting, promoting, and supporting lactation, which is very important for the human life cycle, to honor the incredible work that organizations are doing to make the world a little more friendly for new parents and families. Also, highlight how individuals, funders, and policymakers can contribute to a strong and sustainable lactation arena. There is a special harmony and peace that aligns when a nursing couple needs are met. All families with infants deserve nourishment, sustenance, and long-term support! In the chat you will find (2) webinars for breastfeeding and breastfeeding awareness walk.

- [Clinical Discussion Webinar: Recurrent Lactational Abscess Is it Necessary to Wean?](#) Sunday, August 11, 2024, at 6:00PM – 7:15PM
- [The Clinician Teacher in Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine: A Healthcare Series Tools of the Trade in Breastfeeding and Lactation Clinic](#) Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 11:00AM – 12:00PM
- [A Walk for Breastfeeding Awareness](#) Saturday, August 24, 2024, at 8:45AM – 10:00AM

# TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network

**Presenter:** Cori Johnson, Northeast Regional Director, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network

**Summary:** Today's topic was about Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, which is a serious public health problem for families and communities involved. Suicide does not discriminate based on age, color, religion, or profession. A person dealing with overwhelming challenges or a crisis in their life can lead them to suicidal thoughts. The more we educate the public about the facts of suicide and provide preventing information, the better we all are because suicide prevention is for everyone. In 2022, 136 people died by suicide per day in the United States, which adds to (1) death, every (11) minutes.

Tennessee suicide rate as of 2022 was 17.5% and in 2021 89% white males committed suicide and 67% deaths were caused by firearms. The National Council for Suicide Prevention stated, 700,000+ suicide deaths worldwide. To reduce suicide thoughts, deaths, and stigmas, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, have implemented a strategy that offers education, trainings, resources, and consultation.

TSPN have nine regions with nine regional directors and is structuring to add a tenth region before the end of the year. TSPN, have select training descriptions which teaches folk how to recognize warning signs of suicide, how to offer hope and get help to save a life. They also teach intensive suicide first-aid training for mental health professionals and how to identify those with suicide thoughts. Sources of Strength is a new club created and operated by peer leaders of all ages and is built from the very strengths noted, mental health, family support, positive friends, and physical activities just to name a few.

TSPN, train all different types of organizations and people such as teachers, faith leaders, law enforcement and healthcare providers, the training is basic gatekeeper training, designed to help individuals recognize and respond to people who may be at risk for suicide. If you would like to connect to any of the regions within the state or receive trainings to be of assistance in anyway, please contact Ms. Cori Johnson, Northeast Regional Director, by phone at 615.780.5901 ext. 127 or by via email at [cjohnson@tspn.org](mailto:cjohnson@tspn.org).

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## **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:**

- TN Heart Health Networks, Inaugural Annual Conference, 926 E McLemore Avenue, Memphis, TN 38106, Saturday, August 9-10, 2024, at 9:00AM – 5:00PM (Both Days)
- Humphreys County, Community Baby Shower, Waverly United Methodist Church, 115 West Main Street, Waverly, TN 37185, Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 9:00AM – 1:00PM
- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

- 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>

- Together Nashville Refugee Conference September 21, 2024, at 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Woodmont Hills Church, 3710 Franklin Pike, Nashville, TN 37204 - Light breakfast, coffee, snacks, lunch, and access to all exhibits are included in the \$25 cost of the conference. <https://onlytogethernashville.com/event.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 28<sup>th</sup> from 9AM – 1PM CST at Courthouse Square, Jasper, TN 37347
  - If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)
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**Next Meeting: August 15, 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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