

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting |MINUTES

August 15, 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:** (Mikaela Wiley) This week’s inspirational quote recognizes that August is National Wellness Month. “Your body holds deep wisdom. Trust in it. Learn from it. Nourish it and watch your life transform and be healthy.”

## (Mikaela Wiley)

- **Spinal Muscular Atrophy Awareness Month** The month of August is recognized as Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) Awareness Month. This is a time of year in which the community works together to spread awareness about this rare disease both among the public and in the medical field. Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord and impacts the muscles used for activities such as breathing, eating, crawling, and walking.

It is a hereditary neurological illness that inhibits voluntary muscle action, leading to gradual muscular weakness. There are different types of spinal muscular atrophy that are categorized by when symptoms first appear, such as loss of reflexes, muscle weakness and poor muscle tone, problems with feeding and swallowing, developmental delays, respiratory muscle weakness, tongue twitching, and a bell-shaped torso.

The purpose of SMA awareness is to demonstrate our support through local and national activities, promote awareness, educate people, raise funds for additional research, and aid in the hunt for a cure. It’s intended that this month-long awareness campaign, and others like it in the future, would recognize every one of those whose lives are affected by and bring about future change. If you like to donate, please click the link [SMA Awareness Month - Cure SMA](#).

- **Digestive Tract Paralysis also known as Gastroparesis Awareness Month** Is a chronic digestive disease that affects your stomach’s motility; the normal muscular contractions that enable your stomach to empty itself by moving food from the stomach to the small intestines. Serious problems can occur when your stomach stops moving food or takes too long to move food to the small intestines. Food that stays too long in the stomach can harden into masses called bezoars, causing vomiting, pain, and discomfort. This awareness was founded by the International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders (IFFGD) to raise awareness, promote education, and encourage research. If you like to donate, please click the link [Gastroparesis Awareness Month - IFFGD](#)

# TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** N/A

**Presenter:** N/A

**Summary:** N/A

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

- Recent reports from the Shelby County Health Department show a 36% rise in HIV rates in the county and a 100% increase in syphilis rates since 2018. The most affected demographic was in people from ages 14-35, with an even sharper increase among those aged 15-19. There are fears that the new law requiring parental consent for any kind of health care may be keeping teens from seeking care.

## **Resources mentioned during call:**

- 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
- Purpose Point Community Health. 2800 N Chamberlain Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37406, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Breathe Easy Lung Screening. On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - Oh Baby Donut Stress. If you have any questions about an event, please call 423.541.5490.
- CSS Conference, August 19-21 at Embassy Suites by Hilton at 1200 Conference Center Blvd Murfreesboro, TN
- Thursday, August 22, 2024, from 10AM – 2PM, **FREE EVENT** - Community Baby Shower at Carver Community Center, 600 N Orchard Knobb Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37404 – “Celebrating expectant and new parents and children (0-6 months)”
- If you need more information, please visit our website at [www.healthdisparitiestn.com](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

- Please get your students immunized, please click the link and see the rules and requirements. <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/immunization-program/ip/immunization-requirements.html>
- 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 22, 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#