

Health Disparities Advisory Meeting | MINUTES

October 24, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 65 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon, Director Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

Motivational Quote: (LaShan Dixon) On today Thursday, October 24, 2024, this week's inspirational quote that recognizes AIDS Awareness Month. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Prevention is better than cure, so act now and get tested. - Anonymous

(LaShan Dixon)

- **AIDS Awareness Month** is observed every October. HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. People commonly contract this virus through anal or vaginal sex, or by sharing needles and syringes. People who are pregnant can also transmit the virus to their babies. This awareness is to support educational campaigns that disseminate factual, and clear information to youths, at-risk people, and the general-public. With over 37 million people living with HIV worldwide, public information about its prevention, transmission, and treatment must be accurate and widely available.

Advocates have several goals including educating people about the importance of knowing your status and regular testing, accessible and affordable testing and treatment, reducing stigma, ensuring the public has accurate information about HIV risk and transmission and supporting patients living with HIV/AIDS.

In 1987, the first antiretroviral medication effective in treating HIV, zidovudine (known as AZT), was developed. A positive diagnosis was no longer a death sentence, but despite new information and treatment options, HIV/AIDS continued to spread. By the end of the 1980s, AIDS was a full-blown crisis, with more than 400,000 diagnosed cases.

To date, about 35 million people have died from AIDS, and roughly that same number live with the virus. In 2010, there were over 20 approved treatment options for HIV/AIDS, and new treatments are developed all the time. No vaccine exists yet, but thanks to anti-retroviral drugs and constantly improving treatment options, it's now possible for an HIV patient with access to care to live a full and healthy life. [Awareness Campaigns | HIV.gov](#)

- **National Latinx AIDS Awareness Day (NLAAD)** is to build the capacity for non-profit organizations and health departments to reach Latinx/Hispanic communities, promote HIV testing, and provide HIV prevention information and access to care. Use your voice to raise awareness about HIV and encourage HIV testing, prevention, and

treatment among Hispanic/Latino people. You can start by sharing the social media posts, or by sharing resources from *Let's Stop HIV Together* for Hispanic/Latino people in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: Sacred Spaces, Healthy Places: A Virtual Briefing on Seasonal Respiratory Viruses and Congregational Health Resources

Presenters: Dr. Caitlin Newhouse, Medical Director of TDH Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program

Summary: Today's question is "What is a Respiratory Virus?" A respiratory virus is a common virus, germ that causes cold-like symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, and sore throat, which can lead to severe infections, such as Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), COVID-19, Influenza and Parvovirus B19 just to name a few. Majority of people recover quickly from these viruses but there are those who are at a higher risk of being affected and becoming really sick, which are pregnant women, babies, toddlers, elderly, those with pre-existing conditions of health such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer and HIV.

People ask why do I need a Flu and COVID-19 shot every year? The first reason is because these viruses really peak during the winter seasons from December – March. The second reason is because the virus strains are constantly changing, and the yearly shots are for our immune system protection. The immune system declines over time by age, not taking proper care of oneself, unhealthy eating, not exercising, it also declines from habitual use of alcohol and drugs. There are many different vaccines to protect oneself from Influenza, COVID-19, RSV and many other viruses we've never heard of.

We must protect ourselves and others as quickly as possible to stop the spreading of infections and disease by staying home when feeling sick, get tested when you believe to be affected with an illness, get immunized, keep clean hygiene, such as washing of the hands, take prescribed medication, wear a mask, and keep your distance from others when affected. If we work toward completing these simple tasks which is very effective, we can keep the numbers down and hopefully cease to eliminate. If you would like more information about the information provided, please contact Dr. Caitlin Newhouse by via email at Caitlin.Newhouse@tn.gov.

Member Comments: Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Ensure Our Kids Coalition is hosting a conversation with an immigration attorney about the ACA Marketplace expansion for DACA recipients. You are invited to join a meeting: Insure Our Kids (IOK) TN Coalition Monthly Call. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUpe-qorZ4qE9W9osrQsVBBHiDxWV4YmbAi>

Resources mentioned during call:

- Local Health Departments also have a presence at the multi-agency resource centers (where people can apply for FEMA funding, get WIC, etc.): <https://www.tn.gov/tema/news/2024/10/7/multi-agency-resource-centers-open-for-tennesseans-impacted-by-hurricane-helene.html>

Multi-Agency Resource Centers Open for Tennesseans Impacted by Hurricane Helene

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) has established two Multi-Agency Resource Centers for individuals affected by Hurricane Helene.

- If you need more information, please visit our website at www.healthdisparitiestn.com.

Chat Box – links / website / events:

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Next Meeting: October 31, 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#