

# Health Disparities Advisory Meeting |MINUTES

November 14, 2024, | 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Microsoft Teams

Meeting called by:	Division of Health Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 46 ppl.
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force –	
Facilitator:	LaShan Dixon Office of Faith-Based and Community Engagement	

**Motivational Quote: (LaShan Dixon)** On today Thursday, November 14, 2024, this week’s inspirational quote recognizes World Diabetes Day. “Diabetes is a serious disease, but it doesn’t have to control your life, with proper care and management you can live a long and healthy life.” - Anonymous

**(LaShan Dixon)**

- Native American Heritage Month is celebrated each year in November. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native American and Alaska Native communities and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation. This November, we celebrate the culture and heritage of these remarkable Americans who deeply enrich the quality and character of our Nation. We celebrate Indian Country with its remarkable diversity of American Indian and Alaska Native cultures and peoples while remembering and honoring our veterans who have sacrificed so much to defend our Nation.

Our theme is “Weaving Together our Past, Present and Future”. We will focus on the failed policies of the past with a focus on the Federal Indian Boarding Schools and moving into the present and the work being done to address the intergenerational trauma Native people still face. In partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Smithsonian Institution, we are working to record the lasting impacts of that era and share that information with all Americans. As Indigenous people, our past, present and future are all connected.

- **World Diabetes Day** provides an opportunity to raise awareness about diabetes as a critical global public health issue and emphasize the collective and individual actions needed to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and management of the condition.

This year’s theme, “Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps,” underpins our commitment to reducing the risk of diabetes, and ensuring that all people who are diagnosed with diabetes have access to equitable, comprehensive, affordable, and quality treatment and care. Join us in raising awareness, spreading knowledge, and creating lasting change for all affected by diabetes.

- **American Diabetes Month** This month is a time to rally against the diabetes epidemic and no matter where folks are in their journey everyone must learn to recognize the warning signs and symptoms of diabetes and how to find out if one has it. Type 1 diabetes manipulates the immune system that treats the beta cells in your pancreas, as foreign invaders and it destroys them. When the beta cells are destroyed and the pancreas can no longer produce

insulin, which is a hormone that helps blood glucose enter the cells of the body, so the body can be energized. Type 1 diabetes is mostly found in young people although it can develop in any age. The symptoms to Type 1 diabetes are:

- Urinating often
- Very thirsty
- Very hungry, even while eating.
- Extreme fatigue
- Blurry vision
- Cuts / bruises are slow to heal and
- Tingling, pain and numbness in hands and feet.

Type 2 diabetes is a chronic condition where the body does not use insulin properly, which leads to high blood sugar levels. Type 2 diabetes can cause many health problems, such as heart disease, kidney disease and even a stroke. Type 2 diabetes develops in middle-aged and older adults but is increasing in young people. Type 2 diabetes symptoms can be so mild that they go unnoticed, but the common symptoms are same as Type 1. Early detection and treatment of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes can decrease the risk and although they are similar in symptoms, they are very different in treatment.

Gestational Diabetes have no symptoms, which is why it's important for at-risk women to be tested at the proper time during pregnancy. It is noted people can have a healthy life and thrive with diabetes by doing the following below:

- Health Eating
- Healthy Weight Management
- Fitness and
- Take the Medication

If you need more information, tools and resources about diabetes the American Diabetes Association is always available to help with everything you need, just click the link [About Diabetes | ADA](#).

- **Diabetic Eye Disease Month** Diabetic eye disease, a leading cause of blindness, often has no warning signs. That's why it's so important for people with diabetes to get regular eye exams to catch all issues early, get timely treatment and follow-up care. The National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) is spreading the word about how people with diabetes can protect their vision, with educational resources which is to help lower diabetes and the risk of vision loss.
  - [See our articles and handouts](#)
  - [Explore our collection of videos and webinars](#)
  - [Learn how to get involved](#)

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## TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

**Focus:** Community of Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee (CHANT) Services

**Presenters:** Virginia Weaver-Anderson, Registered Nurse, Children's Special Services (CSS)

**Summary:** The CHANT program stands for Community Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee, which is an innovative process by Tennessee Department of Health that will effectively and efficiently utilize funds currently allocated for Children Special Services known as (CSS) with programs such as Help Us Grow Successfully (HUGS), outreach and activities. The purpose of CHANT is to identify and address risk factors for individual, community levels and etc. CHANT targets four different populations which are children under 5 years of age, pregnant and postpartum adolescent

women, Tenn Care children eligible from birth to age 20, and lastly children and youth with special health care needs known as (CYSHCN) that are at risk for chronic, physical, developmental, behavior and emotional conditions.

CSS is financially governed by the Delegated Authority, referred to as the DA. The purpose is to provide medical and ancillary services to participants on CSS, there are annual guidelines for payment of services and the maximum liability is \$2.5M, which covers the 95 counties across the state of Tennessee. This also includes vendor requirements and letter of agreement. The Delegated Authority (DA) covers the following:

- Interpreters
- Vision Aids
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Special Food and Formula
- Inpatient Hospital Services
- Outpatient Hospital Services
- Co-pays and more.

Co-insurance and deductibles will not exceed \$2,000 annually and prescription drugs are not to exceed \$4,000 per month along with the maximum rate for all participants is based on a 12-month certification period. CSS service provision provides medical payment assistance for medical treatments and services, prescriptions, durable medical equipment, and care coordination. Children who are uninsured that have Tenn Care or private insurance may also apply for assistance. Note, assistance is limited to treatment of chronic medical conditions covered by the program.

The program does have financial eligibility guidelines based on family size at 225% of the Health and Human Services, Federal Poverty line, set each year. Financial eligibility determines verification of, SSI check, TANF, Child Support, Alimony, Income Tax Return if self-employed, Letter from Employer, Pay Stubs and Pensions.

In order to be eligible for CSS, you must have qualifying diagnosis, families must be eligible, and families must live in Tennessee. Below you will find the CHANT Referral Form and if you like to receive more information regarding CHANT or CSS, please contact Ms. Virginia Weaver-Anderson by via email at [virginia.weaver-anderson@tn.gov](mailto:virginia.weaver-anderson@tn.gov) or you may reach her by phone at (615) 741.2703.

CHANT referral form [https://stateoftennessee-cvlyz.formstack.com/forms/chant\\_referral\\_form](https://stateoftennessee-cvlyz.formstack.com/forms/chant_referral_form)

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### ***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/tZUpC-qorZ4qE9W9osrQsVBBHiDxWV4YmbAi>

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

- November 21-22: 27th Annual Fall Psychiatric Symposium in Knoxville, TN. Register online!  
<https://www.mhaet.com/what-we-do/fall-psychiatric-symposium/>
- The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) invites faith leaders to participate in our Gifts and Needs Assessment [survey](#). TDH is committed to eliminating health disparities, and we know that partnering with faith communities is key to achieving this goal. We want to learn about the resources you have available, the resources you need, and how we can work together to support your congregation. Please take a few minutes to share your input here:  
[bit.ly/tdhfaithsurvey](https://bit.ly/tdhfaithsurvey)
- 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](http://www.healthdisparitiestn.com)

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

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**Next Meeting: November 21, 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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Phone Conference ID: 641 975 577#