

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting |MINUTES

August 6, 2020 / 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Via WebEx/Teleconference

Meeting called by:	Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination	Approximately: ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force	
Facilitator:	Monique Anthony, Director	

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: Statewide Dental Resources and Services

Presenter: Dr. Veran A. Fairrow, DDS, MPH, Dental Director of Oral Services, Tennessee Department of Health

Summary: Our State Oral Health Plan was launched in 2017. There is a vast amount of resource available on <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/oralhealth/state-oral-health-plan.html>.

Our annual dental health plan will provide an update on September 4, 2020. It has a vast amount of information to have at your disposal. The State Oral Health Plan has four overarching issues in Tennessee. A lot of the time we do not know what is going on in Tennessee with oral health. After September 4th we will have a place to go for accurate oral health data. Our third in line is prevention. It allows us to start to work on issues before they have started happening. Secondly, is oral health resources and workforce because we want to be able to provide where dentist is located and where they are provided.

Phone Comments:

- In the West Tennessee community, we need to make sure that messaging is available in churches. There is an issue with people finding help and resources. We need pastors to be equipped with information to pass along to their congregation. Not sure if pastors that are in these communities know where to start. TDH information is more than useful, it is a matter of getting that information over to pastors to disseminate
- This taskforce has been helpful to know what is going on at the State level. There are so many meetings and messaging going on, it might be useful to go to already established church meetings/services so this information can get out.
- The amount of resources that is being put out to the public is awesome. We need an outreach from the government,

and their resources. That will be the key to save us during this pandemic.

- Thankful for office putting these meetings together. Each call weekly has provided new resources. There are challenges around people who are disabled or have mobility issues.
 - One thing we are working on in Knoxville is coming up with the effects this pandemic has made to education, economics and our overall health. Over the next few weeks, we plan to share this type of information on a Zoom platform with our community. Our college is going to partner with Commission Ezel to provide face mask to the university and community. Especially since there is a new mandate. We are also looking to hold more testing sites.
 - Data would be helpful for our committee to look at to ensure data provided to community/counties correlates in the Knoxville and Chattanooga area. Can we make sure the data/agencies we receive is in areas where there are organization or people from that area also on the call so we can know what other outreach is already being done to address what the data is reflecting for their area.
 - Across the TDH agency we partner with several academic institutions. It has allowed TDH to provide resources and learning opportunities to these academic intuitions to publicize to their campus and community partners.
 - More information on the Task Force and the strategic plans that are being implemented in the State such as oral health.
 - Would like this group/task force to continue to talk about COVID as is evolves, along with any other topics that need to be addressed in Tennessee.
 - Directory of the Task Force.
 - Race ethnicity data and language data based on the population in Tennessee.
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Resources mentioned during call:

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 6, 2020 from 1pm-2pm via WebEx. WebEx details are as follows:

Meeting number (access code): 610 214 092

Meeting password: Health

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