

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting |MINUTES

September 10, 2020 / 1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. | Location: Via WebEx/Teleconference

Meeting called by:	Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 77 ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force	
Facilitator:	Monique Anthony, Director	

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: Hispanic Outreach and Engagement

Presenter: Juliana Ospina Cano, Executive Director, Conexión Américas

Summary: We are an 18-year-old nonprofit organization. We serve Latino and immigrant origin families statewide throughout 35 counties. Every year on average we serve about 9000+ individuals and families, and 800+ students K-16. However, due to COVID-19 these numbers have increased significantly. We believe this increase is due to families finding out about us and the cash assistance we can provide. We anticipate these number will continue to increase due to the pandemic.

The population in Tennessee continues to be diverse. About 5.2% of Tennesseans are foreign born. There are multiple languages spoken throughout TN and Spanish is the dominant language among. There has been an influx of immigrants who have just arrived in the U.S. about a year ago. We have 2nd generation (families served about 10 years ago) children that come to us for assistance with their taxes or need help enrolling their kids into school etc. We have a multigenerational approach at Conexión Américas since that is so common in the Latino community.

Immediately after the tornado hit, we become a donation center. We have a beautiful building that house 9 other nonprofits organizations. We have a school with an early learning center, a clinic which is in partnership with Neighborhood Health and we partner with other Catholic charities. We closed our offices and moved all our programming remotely. Around the 3rd week of March, we started seeing the impact of COVID-19 on the Latino, Black, and immigrant origin families. We saw the first wave of unemployment, and individuals testing positive for COVID-19 or having symptoms. We partnered with the Health Department so we can get important information out to these communities. A COVID-19 Spanish hotline has been setup to help answer any calls for questions related to COVID. In addition, our organization also applied for PPE and emergency funding to stabilize our organization.

We partner with the Health Department and other organizations in TN so we can normalize COVID testing. As you may know Latino families are generational and so there limited to having an area where they could quarantine, if needed. Now, with the second phase ending and entering the third phase, we have been able to provide almost \$300,000 in direct cash assistance due the COVID-19 response fund. We received local CARES funding to help families with mortgage or rent assistance. The application goes live everyday at 8 a.m. We currently have reached the maximum amount for providing

this assistance.

Please do not forget to join us on 10.16.2020 at 7:00 P.M. for our celebration of Hispanic Heritage month via online.

Focus: Colorectal Cancer (CRC) Health Disparities

Presenter: Dr. Martin Whiteside, Director, TN Cancer Registry

Summary: The United States Preventative Service Taskforce provides recommendations for various matters related to health. Their general recommendation for colorectal cancer screenings is from ages 50-75 years old. Tennessee falls 2nd to the last nationally for colorectal cancer screenings. The mortality for CRC is higher in Black individuals compared to white individuals; however, trends shows that this disparity will start to narrow in the years to come.

For the age adjusted rate of late stage colorectal cancer between white and Black individuals is very different. Black individuals the rate is 27.2% per 1,000,000 individuals versus white individuals with a 22.8% rate. That is a highly significant difference. There is clearly a lot of work that still needs to be done in order to reduce these disparities.

Focus: VUMC Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Study Overview

Presenter: Jon Warkentin, Medical Director, Tuberculosis Elimination Program

Summary: There are a couple of studies happening here in Nashville for a COVID-19-Vaccine. I am currently a participant and will have my first appointment on Tuesday morning next week. I signed off a on few consents, provided medical history and then they explained to me all the risk. This study is completely mandatory. Studies like this want to include diversity. Due to the rate that the vaccination is moving studies have not been publicized well in order to obtain that diversity in participants. There is still opportunity for people to participate in this study. They are particularly interested in having more individuals that are not white.

Anyone interested can contact Kyle using the information below.

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Focus: TN Council on Developmental Disabilities Survey

Presenter: Lauren Percy, Director of Public Policy, Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities

Summary: The Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities is working on a new five-year state plan. The state plan is a key tool for the Council. It guides our strategy and planning. It is our tool to improve the disability services system and grow leaders in the disability community. The state plan outlines the goals we will meet and how we will meet them. Before we can develop these goals, we must get input from the public - from you!

Our work is guided by the voices of Tennesseans with developmental disabilities and their family members. This survey is an important way for us to hear your collective voices. Without this input, we would not have the information we need to guide our work and would only be guessing about where to put our resources. This survey is also available in Spanish.

Survey in English: https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/public_input_survey_cdd

Survey in Spanish: https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/public_input_survey_2020espanol

For any questions or more details you can contact Laura Percy lauren.j.percy@tn.gov

Resources mentioned during call:

Conexión Américas- <https://www.conexionamericas.org/>

Tennessee Charitable Care Network (TCCN) has opened registration for its free online conference.

Please join us and register at <https://www.tccn2020.com>

Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities Survey

Survey in English: https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/public_input_survey_cdd

Survey in Spanish: https://stateoftennessee.formstack.com/forms/public_input_survey_2020espanol

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 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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