

Health Disparities Task Force Meeting |MINUTES

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

Meeting called by:	Office of Minority Health and Disparities Elimination	Approximately: 95 ppl
Type of meeting:	Weekly Health Disparities Task Force	
Facilitator:	Monique Anthony, Director	

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

Focus: Opening Comments

Presenter: Governor of Tennessee, Bill Lee

Summary: Thank you to everyone and your efforts across the State to address health disparities and provide information and resources to those who really need it. Dr. Kimberly Lamar has been a vital part of our unified command group in which she participates in on a weekly basis. Dr. Lamar provides us this group with information on how we are accomplishing the task of successfully supporting communities in need, along with other communities which still need our assistance. I just want to say, thank you. The taskforce reaches across the state of Tennessee. It is comprised of people who are literally the boots on the ground. You are reaching the people we need to reach, and we are grateful. As Governor, I am very proud of the work you are doing. We receive regular reports about the work you are doing. We have some serious challenges around our most underserved populations. There are new and different challenges which have escalated every day since the pandemic. It takes the people like you, who are in touch with families and communities who need our help. The work you all are doing is desperately needed right now, so THANK YOU to everyone.

Focus: Domestic Violence Resources (Local and State)

Presenter: Ally Johnson, Community Engagement Manager, YWCA Knoxville, TN

Summary: The YWCA Knoxville & the Tennessee Valley has several programs we offer. These programs are sort of broken up in three pillars which include youth programing, transitional housing and domestic violence services. We have a community center in East Knoxville, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center (PWC) which offers youth programs but most notably its afterschool enrichment program. This is a safe place where our East Knoxville youth can get a free hot

meal, work on their studies and be with their friends. Since the pandemic we have started offering program services during hours called Virtual Home Away from Home. This is for students who have opted into virtual learning. Staff is available to make sure students complete their studies and offer other support in any capacity.

Game Changers is another program going on in month of October. It is a violence prevention program for middle school boys. This program educates young males on many topics including healthy relationships, gender stereotypes, healthy masculinity, and how to be an active bystander when witnessing violence against woman or girls. These groups meet weekly in or after school with adult male mentor. In the meantime, due to COVID we have adapted this program into a virtual capacity.

Our Transitional Housing program location lies in downtown Knoxville. We house up to 58 women who are coming from situations of homelessness. We can provide immediate housing for any for victims in fleeing situations of domestic violence. We also offer immediate financing early on for these victims. We know in abusive situations; a lot of the time power and control is at the core of these situations. Most of the time finances have been cutoff, so providing support immediately is extremely important.

Our Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy program is completely free. We meet these victims wherever which can range from assisting with an order of protection, safety planning, need for legal services and we also offer culturally specific options. Since COVID we have noticed an increase in the severity of calls. Unfortunately, a lot of victims have not found that being at home has it safer during this pandemic. A lot of the calls received have been surrounded around victims not being able to get away from their abuser. Knox County District Attorney's Office has said the number of reported domestic violence offenses has skyrocketed during the pandemic. Our domestic violence advocates are still on call and continue to have our support groups virtually which are showing to be very successful.

It is Domestic Violence Awareness Month! You can visit our website <https://ywcaknox.com/> to find out more ways you can get involved and to take our "We believe you pledge" at www.ywcaknox.com/dvam.

Focus: Domestic Violence Resources (Local and State)

Presenter: Dr. Robin Kimbrough, Chaplain and Special Assistant to the President on United Methodist Affairs, Meharry Medical College

Summary: First we will talk about the dynamics of domestic violence. A lot of people tend to think domestic violence is about anger. However, most of the time it is about power and control. Sometimes this does not always show up violently. Some criminal and noncriminal behaviors can include financial abuse, threats to children, sexual abuse, hitting and degrading comments.

Tennessee is ranked number 4 in women who are murdered by their intimate partners. Tennessee has always been in the

top 10 states of women who are murdered by their intimate partners. This is a very important issue and we need funding to help support victims and their families. Financial issues are a true barrier when it comes to domestic assault victims. Domestic assaults cases have risen due to the current pandemic. Shelters are remaining full as a result of this.

When you are classified as a domestic abuse victim which is a victim who is in an intimate partner relationship and themselves, pets, or property have been threatened. You can seek an order of protection. Sexual assault and stalking victims can also file for an order of protection. In Nashville, Tennessee you can get an order of protection 24 hours, 7 days a week. When a person commits a crime in a domestic relationship and they are arrested, there are special protections for the victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. Please see PPT slide for definition of domestic relationship, domestic violence, and special protections for victims.

Dynamics of domestic violence and immigrant clients varies and can include barriers due to distance from their family, language barriers to report the crime, perceived dependence for immigration status and fear that their abuser will be deported. There are provisions in place to protect immigrant victims such as batter spouse waivers, Violence Against Women Act, gender asylum and cancellation of removal. I encourage everyone to get the “Power and Control Will” and share it with anyone you know.

Focus: Domestic Violence Resources (Local and State)

Presenter: Renea Satterwhite, MPH, CHES, Rape Prevention and Education Program Director

Summary: In 2018, Tennessee reported 73,568 domestic violence victims. Females in Tennessee are almost 3 times more likely than males to become victims. Women and children have the highest potential for domestic abuse victimization. Whites (58.0%) and Black or African American (41.3%) were more likely than any other race to become victims of sexual violence. A total of 7,210 juveniles or individuals accounted for 9.8% of all victims.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Domestic violence report 2018.

Domestic Awareness Month activities

Wear a Little Purple with Your Pink Campaign

Domestic Violence Tool Kit

Clothesline Project- <http://clotheslineproject.info/project.html>

Light in the Window Campaign

Promote the Domestic Violence Hotline-<https://www.thehotline.org/> -1-800-799-SAFE

24-hour Statewide hotline 1-800-356-6767

Our rape prevention and education programs are funded through the CDC. It is a grant to help prevent sexual violence and intimate partner violence in Tennessee. Our programs focus on youth and other areas where sexual violence can occur. Our Safe Dates program focuses on healthy relations and bystander intervention skills. Our Coaching Boys into Men program is centered around coaches teaching young males the important of healthy relationships. It can be

considered more of a mentoring program for young boys. We also have a program called Athletes of Leaders which consist of female mentors which is tailored around the same concept of our Coaching Boys into Men program. We also have community level intervention. Our Safe Bar program is housed through our sexual assault center. They teach bar and restaurant staff on how to intervene in a possible sexual assault or sexual violent situations. It is a 90-minute training that is a bystander intervention training. A lot of sexual violent occurs in bars or restaurants that serve alcohol. This program is great way to encourage staff intervention in these types of situations. Lastly, our Shifting Boundaries program, which is targeted more towards middle school students and teaching them healthy relationships. It encourages students to create schoolwide policies or schoolwide prevention towards violence/sexual violence.

Focus: Online Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Program

Presenter: Dr. Jim Bailey, Professor of Medicine and Preventive Medicine, and Director for the Center for Health Systems Improvement, University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Presenter: Dr. Susan Butterworth, Associate Professor, Center for Health System Improvement, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center

Summary: We have been working the last 6-10 years on developing programs guided by our community to address problems related to obesity, diabetes, food access and other social determinants of health. We were funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute to come up with a program called Model (Management of Diabetes in Everyday Life). It has been the basis of a lot of our work to develop community health worker training programs. It is based on principals to help people in their daily lives. We asked people what type of support is most needed in order to address their health-related issues. The top two responses were health coaching and tailored motivational messages from doctors.

The Model Program, over the last five years, has enrolled almost 700 patients. They are all African American patients with uncontrolled diabetes issues who wanted to take control back over their lives. The patients we have been serving are staying engaged through virtual coaching. We have been working to develop a series of community health training programs based and structured learning around essentials skills of motivational interviewing.

Please refer to PPT slides Programs Launching on November 1, 2020 for more details on the Motivational Interviewing certification program, Chronic Care & Lifestyle Management certification program, and Health Coach certification program. There are not a lot of training programs like these available. These online programs can give people that opportunity to develop competency-based skills required to engage people and keep them engaged to change their health. We can send information about these programs if anyone interested.

Please note we are doing everything in our power to make sure these certifications are low cost and possibly even free because we really want to get these programs out there. Other programs will give free access to this program. One of those programs is the Tennessee Heart Health Network. For more information on if your health system is participating in the TN Heart Health Network reach out to Dr. Jim Bailey or Dr. Susan Butterworth. The major purpose of this overall

activity is workforce development to address disparities. We believe that every primary care setting needs health coaches, patient navigators, and outreach community health workers. We hope to work with many of you who are actively involved in trying to spread the use of community health workers the norm across the State of Tennessee. Many of our health coaches are in Memphis.

Resources mentioned during call:

YWCA Resources

YWCA Knoxville & the Tennessee Valley: (865)523-6126, info@ywcaknox.com

Statewide Domestic Violence Hotline: (800)356-6767

YWCA USA A Week Without Violence: www.ywcaweekwithoutviolence.org

Learn More: www.ncadv.org

Domestic Violence Resources

Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence- <https://www.tncoalition.org/>

24-hour State-Wide Domestic Violence Hotline- 1-800-356-6767

No More- <https://nomore.org/>

Protect Respect TN -<http://www.protectrespecttn.org/>

National Domestic Violence-<https://www.thehotline.org/> -1-800-799-SAFE

Online Community Health Worker (CHW) Training Program

Dr. Jim Bailey - JEB@UTHSC.EDU

Dr. Susan Butterworth - SBUTTER1@UTHSC.EDU

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 8, 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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