

Director's Update to the Board of Health August, 2022

Protecting Health – Preventing the Spread of Infectious Disease

COVID

COVID-19 numbers are stable over the past 6-8 weeks. We know there remains under reporting due to home testing which was not available during prior surges. We continue our outreach with strike teams doing testing and vaccinations. Our clinics are offering vaccine during clinic visits, and we continue to work closely with community partners to encourage vaccination for all ages. We continue to advise MNPS on masks, other mitigation strategies and vaccines.

The Metro Public Health Department is working to ensure all those who rely on the Health Department for their preventative health needs are able to get their children vaccinated against COVID-19. Nurses and staff at our preventative health clinics are asking each client who comes through the clinic if they or their children would like the COVID-19 vaccine. Communications between MPHD and community partners has included the recommendation that those in need of a COVID-19 vaccine, particularly for those under five years of age, contact one of our clinics to arrange an appointment for a vaccine. Online resources are in development, focusing on reasons for vaccinating young children against COVID-19.

Monkeypox

Dr. Shaw-KaiKai will provide a brief overview at the Board meeting.

Back to School Hours at Preventive Health Clinics

August 1-26, 2022, all three preventive health locations (East, Woodbine, and Lentz 120) will offer extended back to school hours. During this time, Woodbine will extend hours Monday through Thursday from 7am to 5:30pm, Lentz 120 will extend hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30am to 6pm, and East will extend hours on Wednesdays from 8am to 6:30pm. Flyers are available upon request. This information has been shared with clinical leadership throughout MPHD; additionally, the information has been posted on social media platforms, the Smart TV's within Lentz and displayed within the clinic locations themselves.

Twenty-two children were vaccinated with 7th grade immunizations at the Saturday, July 23 event at Lentz. This was part of our ongoing effort to increase access to vaccination services and offer alternate times that may be more convenient to families.

Improve and Sustain Family and Child Well-Being

WIC

The formula availability remains unstable and can vary drastically between stores and days. The temporary formulas covered by WIC have been extended from August 31-Sept. 30. The op-ed that Lauren Cromer co-wrote on "How to survive the baby formula shortage" with Dr. Rosemary Hunter and Dr. Hunter's medical student was published in *The Tennessean* on July 7, 2022:

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/2022/07/07/how-survive-help-baby-formula-shortage/7751197001/>

August is National Breastfeeding Month

August is National Breastfeeding Month, and we are busy providing fun goodie bags to breastfeeding moms that come into the WIC offices and we are raffling off a Spectra breast pump in our weekly prenatal breastfeeding classes. Additionally, for the first time we are hosting a Free Breastfeeding Class for all

residents of Davidson County in honor of breastfeeding month. We have sent [this flyer](#) out internally to our health department as well as externally to our community partners.

Doula Onboarding Training and Orientation

On July 23, 2022, the MPH hosted our first Doula Onboarding Training and Orientation as part of the supplemental funding we receive for Healthy Start. We are excited to welcome six doulas who have completed training and have come on board to provide prenatal, postpartum, and lactation support to enrolled Healthy Start participants. We are looking forward to working with Jensine Pearman, Shanika Kidd, Candice Batts, Sydney Ferguson, Johndee Breedlove, and Maya McFarland.

Promote and Support Healthier Living

Behavioral Health

On Wednesday, August 3, Behavioral Health and Wellness had a planning and strategic meeting to address staffing, services and other issues that need to be addressed over the next three to six months. Two of the top priorities were to fill the Division's director position and to develop a short-term strategic plan. Tina Lester, Dr. Black, Dr. Harris, Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Kang and I met with the interim director, Nichelle Foster. We will continue to help and support these efforts. The posting for the Director should be posted within the next week and additional postings will follow for the other open positions. Dr. Harris will continue to monitor progress and report to Dr. Black and me on a regular basis.

2022 Nashville Emerging Leader Awards Winners Announced

Fifteenth Annual Celebration showcases Nashville's Young Professionals NASHVILLE, Tenn. (July 20, 2022)

– The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and YP Nashville recognized 48 young professionals during the 15th Annual Nashville Emerging Leaders Awards (NELAS) held at Lipscomb University's Shinn Center Tuesday evening. NELAS recognizes Middle Tennessee's young professionals under the age of 40 for significant accomplishments in their chosen career field, as well as their commitment and contribution to the community.

Government and Public Affairs

Jules Wilson, Community Mental Health Systems Improvement (CMHSI) coordinator, Metro Public Health Department

Jules Wilson is the Community Mental Health Systems Improvement coordinator for Metro Public Health Department. In this role, they provide support to CMHSI, the Mayor's Behavioral Health and Wellness Advisory Council, and the city's Partners in Care co-response program. Wilson is a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist through the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS) and a founding member of TDMHSAS's Statewide Young Adult Leadership Council. Wilson was honored to receive the 2019 NAMI Tennessee Professional Award and to be able to serve their community as a member of The Next Door's Next Generation Board. Wilson is passionate about advocating for and providing education on how to best support young adults, individuals with mental health and/or substance use challenges, and the LGBTQ+ community through an intersectional and trauma-informed lens.

Sheldon Walker, BSW:

Please [see attached for information](#) about the August 23rd virtual conference from SPAAFCC where Sheldon is the co-chair of the coalition.

Sheldon also hosting with partners from SPAAFCC and Metro Public Schools, a back-to-school event on September 10, at Haynes Middle School from 11a – 3p. The save the date has not been completed yet, however he should have it next week when he returns if you need a separate copy to add to the packet.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. On September 14, 2022, Sheldon Walker the Suicide Prevention Coordinator in BHW will host the divisions 1st annual event called “Hope is Available” in the Centennial Rooms from 9am – 12noon. The purpose of this event is to share hope in dark places and to encourage people to share resources beyond the walls that they work in or live in. There is a hope and anticipation that 70-80 guests, stakeholders and community partners will register to attend.

Create Healthier Community Environments

Health in All Policies Summit

On September 9, 2022, the Metro Public Health Department will host its first Healthy Nashville 2022 Health in All Policies Summit at the Nashville Public Library (Main Library). The full-day event will welcome an audience of approximately two hundred (200) attendees from the public, private and academic sectors. With the title, "Collaborations for Better Health," the event will provide community partners with a learning opportunity to inspire action towards strengthening current collaborations and establishing new partnerships across sectors to improve the health of Nashville residents. Please join us by registering at [Health in All Policies \(HiAP\) Summit: Collaborations for Better Health Tickets, Fri, Sep 9, 2022 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Environmental Health

Since its passage in 2007, the Tennessee Non-Smoker Protection Act has contained an exemption for age-restricted venues—establishments that restrict access to their buildings or facilities at all times to persons who are twenty-one (21) years of age or older. On July 1, 2022, Public Chapter No. 1110 went into effect, authorizing municipalities, counties, and counties having a metropolitan form of government to regulate, including prohibiting, by passing a resolution or ordinance, smoking and the use of vapor products in certain age-restricted venues.

The passage of this Chapter was due largely to the efforts of Jamie Kent, Chair of the Musicians for a Smokefree Tennessee Coalition. Mr. Kent worked closely with Derrick Smith and Matthew Garth with Metro Legal and Tom Sharp and Hugh Atkins with MPH D on an Ordinance that will prohibit smoking in age-restricted venues in Nashville and Davidson County. The Ordinance passed on first reading on August 2, 2022. Councilman Jeff Syracuse is the chief sponsor.

Derrick, Matthew, Tom, and Hugh are now working with Mr. Kent and the Council on an amendment to the Ordinance to address some minor concerns, mostly with making sure it applies to all appropriate establishments.

The Food and Public Facilities Division in the Environmental Health Services Bureau has been enforcing the Tennessee Non-Smoker Protection Act in establishments they otherwise regulate since October 2007. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development enforces the Act in establishments not regulated by MPH D. This same enforcement authority will apply if the new Ordinance is passed.

Organizational Updates

Dr. Marie Griffin appointment to the Board of Health

New Board member Marie Griffin was confirmed by Metro Council on August 2, 2022. Dr. Griffin is not able to attend the August meeting, but we look forward to welcoming her at the Thursday, September 8, 2022, regular Board meeting.

Red Sand project

On July 25, from 10:30am-12:30pm at Lentz (2500 Charlotte Ave), July 27 from 2:00-3:00pm at the East Clinic (1015 East Trinity Lane), and July 29 from 10:30am-11:30am at the Woodbine Clinic (224 Oriol Avenue), our MPH staff in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Health, Women's and Reproductive Health Team will participate in our 4th annual statewide Human Trafficking Awareness initiative that will educate the public on both labor and sex trafficking in Tennessee. This community event works to bring awareness and education on the growing issue to sex and labor trafficking. The spreading of red sand throughout the cracks of the sidewalk creates a visual representation of individuals that society allows to "fall through the cracks" in terms of screening and referral to resources. We participate annually to raise awareness and also promote conversations regarding ways in which our MPH clinics are working to identify and connect those individuals to assistance programs.

We are thankful to all those who participated in Red Sand week activities. We had a great turnout this year, and pictures from the event are shared here.



