

## THCC 2024 Annual Advocacy Conference Agenda (all times listed in Eastern Daylight Time)

- 9:00am – 10:00am Sign-in and Light Breakfast Available
- 10:00 am – 10:15am **Welcome and Introduction of the Keynote Speaker**  
**Presenter: Logan Ebel, MDiv., THCC President**
- 10:15am – 11:15 **Keynote – Pursuing Health Justice: Charting the Path, Staying the Course**  
This session will cover the threats and growing challenges to realizing health equity and key advocacy strategies to overcome these threats and challenges, such as how improving and expanding Medicaid, transforming the delivery of care, advancing data justice and assuring accountability for achieving health equity, and centering impacted people and places.  
**Presenter: Staci Lofton, MPH, JD, Senior Director of Health Equity, Families USA**
- 11:15am – 11:30am **Break**
- 11:30am – 12:30pm Concurrent Sessions  
**Session 1: Reproductive, Maternal, and Peripartum Health Inequities: A Regional Update**  
Our panelists will discuss how the Dobbs decision and subsequent closure of reproductive health clinics across the state, lack of access to Medicaid expansion, and ongoing rural hospital closures decrease access to health care in Tennessee; how lack of access to care intersects with structural racism, poverty, and other health concerns, such as substance abuse. The session will also examine how providers, social scientists, and advocates are using innovative methods to serve populations with the least access to care.  
**Panelists:** **Alexis Alsup, Student CPM, Doula**, Founder of Empowered Doula Services  
**Melinda Ramage, FNP-BC, CARN-AP, LCAS**  
**Nikki Zite, MD, MPH**, Vice Chair, Education and Advocacy, Obstetrics & Gynecology, University of Tennessee, Graduate School of Medicine  
**Beau Morgan, NRP**, co-executive director of Hellbender Harm Reduction  
**Moderator: Lesly-Marie Buer, PhD, MPH**
- Session 2: Racial Health Disparities**  
This session will present information about factors contributing to racial/ethnic health disparities, as well as those involving individuals with mental health, maternal health, and chronic health needs. Links between health disparities and economic disparities will also be discussed.  
**Presenter: Rebecca Adkins Fletcher, PhD**
- 12:30pm – 1:30pm **BUFFET LUNCH**
- 1:30pm – 2:30pm Concurrent Sessions  
**Session 3: Rural Health Disparities**  
This session will examine how hospital closures have exacerbated rural health disparities by examining: 1) the intersection of closures and Social Determinants of Health; 2) declining access to care; and 3) lack of Medicaid expansion. Each presenter will provide a brief overview, followed by questions.  
**Panelists:** **Mark Gaylord, MD**  
**Amanda McHale, DrPh, MPH**  
**Tracey Stansberry PhD, APRN, AOCN**  
**Moderator: Richard Henighan, BS, MA, APRN**

**Session 4: The Mental Health Inequity Experiences of LGBTQIA+ Community in Tennessee**

This session will discuss: 1) the failure of laws/policies to recognize certain classes of people – trans folks are not a protected class; 2) non-existent comprehensive sexual education and preventative medicine – more are subject to STDs/STIs; 3) this population is more likely to become homeless and use/abuse substances; 4) purposeful or accidental discrimination – lack of education on how to treat particular issues; 5) the stigma of certain types of relationships/behaviors – understanding personal biases and how this impacts our work; and 6) the law actively works against LGBTQIA+.

**Presenter:** Crystal Hammar, LMFT

2:30pm – 2:45pm

**Break**

2:45pm – 4:15pm

**Closing Plenary: Closing the Coverage Gap: Legislative Lessons**

This session will highlight the successful expansion of Medicaid to low-income adults in Montana, the passage of Medicaid expansion legislation in Mississippi, and how these efforts might impact legislative efforts in Tennessee. Edward Butt, State Representative (R) of Montana was key to passage of the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act which provided coverage of health care services and work-readiness programs to low-income Montanans. State Senator John Horhn (D) of Mississippi was one of the co-sponsors of bi-partisan Medicaid expansion bills that passed both chambers but stalled in conference committee over the issue of work requirements. State Senator Becky Duncan Massey of Tennessee is a long-time member of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, and an effective sponsor of legislation to improve access to maternal health, mental health, and comprehensive services for disabled Tennesseans. Carole Myers PhD, RN, FAAN is a Fellow at the Center for Health Policy and Media Engagement at George Washington University, Professor in the College of Nursing at UTK, and host of Health Connections radio program

**Panelists:**     **Honorable John Horhn**, Mississippi State Senate  
                      **Honorable Ed Buttrey**, Montana State House and Senate  
                      **Carole Myers, PhD, RN**

**Moderator:**   **Honorable Rebecca Duncan Massey**, Tennessee State Senate

4:15pm – 4:30pm

Conclusion/evaluations/certificates/door prizes

*For more information and to register, please visit: <https://tnhealthcarecampaign.org/2024-annual-advocacy-conference-sustaining-the-movement-towards-health-equity/>*

