

**COVID-19 – Health Disparities Grant Success Story
Rural Health Association of Tennessee and Men's Health Network**

GR-21-73441

Overview

In 2021, Rural Health Association of Tennessee (RHA) received a contact from Tennessee Department of Health (TDH), Office of Minority Health, via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA).

The service goal of this contract was to improve the health of people in rural Tennessee by providing activities for COVID-19 advocacy, communication, and health education.

As part of the strategy to provide accurate education regarding COVID-19, vaccinations, and overall population health improvement, RHA contracted with the Men's Health Network of Tennessee (MHN) to develop and disseminate a Certified Men's Health Educator training.

The following narrative outlines MHN's contribution to meeting the following service deliverables stated in RHA's contract with TDH:



1. Facilitate COVID-19 meetings, convene educational opportunities, and coordinate COVID-19 activities that strengthen partnerships and foster communication and collaboration among rural health partners and stakeholders at the local, state, federal and national level.
2. Coordinate stakeholder meetings via telephone or face to face to discuss the association's respective rural health objectives for the year and any opportunities for training or input available to the public or health professionals and communicate this information on the Grantee's website and newsletter
3. Increase the number of culturally appropriate COVID-19 health education opportunities in rural underserved communities to reduce vaccine hesitancy stigma.

Men's Health Network received a total of \$236,415.77 in funding.

Certified Men's Health Educator Purpose

Men's Health Network (MHN) and its Tennessee affiliate serve as a resource and advocacy center for the mental and physical health of men and boys. MHN's mission is to reach men where they live, work, play, and pray with a variety of evidence-based program and project designs. MHN maintains a focus on health disparities that exist inside and outside of the healthcare system and best practices to address these issues. Particularly, MHN focuses on at-risk, underserved urban and rural populations where access to healthcare providers is limited or nonexistent.

Men, especially uninsured men, are generally presumed to delay preventive and other care. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 40% of U.S. adults delayed or avoided medical care throughout the COVID-19 pandemic ([CDC, Delay or Avoidance of Medical Care Because of COVID-19–Related Concerns — United States, June 2020, published September 11, 2020](#)).

To address the concerns of delayed care, as well as promote vaccine confidence, the Men's Health Network developed a Certified Men's Health Educator (CMHE) training. This online course was designed to train public and private healthcare educators on how to effectively connect with and educate men and their families.

About the CMHE Training

The CMHE curriculum consists of eight (8) self-paced modules that take approximately 20 hours to complete. Modules include recorded lessons, reading and resources, and a knowledge check at the end of the lessons. At the end of the training learners must successfully complete a 100 question knowledge check to receive a certificate.

Among the learning modules in the CMHE curriculum were chapters on "Vaccines & Covid-19" and "Rural Men's Health" (with specific Tennessee data), and "Health Disparities & the Gender Mortality Gap." Those who completed CMHE received an accredited Men's Health certification of completion recognized by national, state, and local public health entities.



The training, which was linked to Men's Health Network website and Rural Health Association of Tennessee's website, was made available to learners at no cost.

Moving forward Rural Health Association of Tennessee will offer the training as an optional add-on to the Community Health Worker training.

CMHE Promotion

The training was promoted through distribution of flyers, a tri-fold brochure, and online communications. A first of its kind training that was offered at no cost to Tennesseans, the CMHE was quickly adopted not just in the distressed counties, but across the state. The training was also promoted at statewide conferences, health expos, and meetings.



As part of this grant initiative, MHN attended 50 county health council meetings, 12 statewide and regional public health conferences, hosted 6 MHN branded special events, and participated in 12 community health fairs to promote the CMHE and share COVID-19 materials. MHN provided matching resources in the form of equipment, per diem reimbursement, and auxiliary men's health educational resources to personnel attending these events.

Results

A total of 120 people enrolled in the Certified Men's Health Educator course. Of those, 65 people (54%) have graduated, 20 (17% have dropped), and 35 (29%) are still in the process of completing the training. MHN's Tennessee network was expanded to include new faith-based organizational partners, behavioral and mental health service providers, and local school systems. MHN's existing collaborative partners were amplified through engagements at county health departments and health councils, academic institutions, and state government agencies.

MHN developed and distributed a new educational resource titled "Vaccine Hesitant? Get the Facts for a Healthier You." This tri-fold brochure purely focuses on the urgency for men to create an open dialogue with their healthcare provider about vaccinations, with an acute focus the COVID-19 vaccine. MHN's "Vaccine Hesitant?" resource has been distributed through MHN's CMHE network and is available for download through MHN's online health library at no-cost.

MHN presented a monthly webinar series that featured expert speakers on a variety of health and socioeconomical topics for CMHE enrollees as a method to continue their educational investment, learn from one another, and capture interest for sustainable efforts to improve male health and longevity in the communities they serve. Each of these webinars have been recorded and are featured on MHN's website.

At the conclusion of CMHE training, graduates provided feedback regarding CMHE's user-friendliness, program script, auto-reminders, learner read time, program pre/post-test achievement tracking. Nearly all of those that responded said that CMHE virtual training platform was very well designed, that the information provided was relevant and necessary to improving male population health outcomes. Most importantly, those that provided comment about CMHE said that they intend to generate a community-based program(s) utilizing a model developed by MHN.

Reach of CMHE Graduates

CMHE graduates represented the below 21 counties in Tennessee.



Challenges

The overarching challenge MHN faced throughout the duration of the partnership grant with Rural Health Association of Tennessee was the ability to accommodate the number of invitations to make presentations at the county level and to engage with stakeholders. Technology platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams enabled MHN personnel to virtually present CMHE when in-person engagements were not possible, thereby increasing the reach of the program. In addition, individuals who registered and enrolled in CMHE but did not make rapid progress in the training required additional monitoring and motivational effort through multiple means including messaging at public meetings and frequent individual outreach to enrollees. These types of messages were enough to prompt more enrollees to graduate CMHE.



Sustainability

MHN will continue to update and enhance the men's health training curriculum and mode of delivery beyond the term of the grant. The updated training platform includes contemporary modules and a crisp prospective on the men's health movement by MHN personnel. The training will be available through MHN's and Rural Health Association of Tennessee's website.

Additional Activities

As part of the Certified Men's Health Educator lessons, the following webinars were hosted:

- "Vaccine Education and Vaccine Hesitancy" – Presented by Maddie Manning with University of Tennessee Extension Service, October 19, 2023.
- "Veteran's Resiliency & Campus Life" – November 30, 2023.
- "The Tennessee Cancer Coalition & Advance in Cancer Control Initiatives" – Presented by Rachel Matlock, Tennessee Department of Health, December 21, 2023.
- "Empowering Health HPV Understanding: Insights from a Physician Consultant" – Presented by Dr. Hannah Dudney, Tennessee Department of Health, January 25, 2024.
- "Colorectal Cancer and Men's Health" – Presented by Michael Holtz with Man Up to Cancer, March 28th, 2024

Health Council Meetings

Men's Health Network staff attended and/or presented to 50 Health Council Meetings across the state of Tennessee throughout the grant period.

Bledsoe County Health Council	Lawrence County Health Council
Bradley County Health Council	Lincoln County Health Council
Cannon County Health Council	Loudon County Health Council
Carter County Collaborative	Macon County Health Council
Clay County Health Council	Marion County Health Council
Cocke County Health Council	McMinn County Health Council
Coffee County Health Council	Meigs County Health Council
Crockett County Health Council	Moore County Health Council
Cumberland County Health Council	Overton County Health Council
DeKalb County Prevention Coalition	Polk County Health Council
Dyer County Health Council	Putnam County Health Council
Fayette County Health Council	Rhea County Health Council
Franklin County Prevention Coalition	Roane County Health Council
Giles County Health Council	Scott County Health Council
Greene County Health Council	Sequatchie County Health Council
Grundy County Health Council	Shelby County Health Council
Hamilton County Health Council	Smith County Health Council
Hancock County Health Council	Sullivan County Health Council
Hardeman County Health Council	Tipton County Health Council
Haywood County Health Council	Unicoi County Health Council
Jackson County Health Council	Van Buren County Health Council
Jefferson County Health Council	Warren County Health Council
Johnson County Health Council	Washington County Prevention Coalition
Lake County Health Council	Wayne County Health Council
Lauderdale County Health Council	White County Health Council



Partnerships

Partners are defined as organizations who participated in a Men's Health Network event, helped to promote the Certified Men's Health Educator training, and/or engaged with Men's Health Network at local, regional, and/or state meetings.

New Partnerships	Existing Partnerships
Lake County Schools	Lake County Health Department
Youth Villages	Univ. of Tennessee, Martin
Drug Free Tipton	TN Charitable Care Network
Martin Housing	TN Primary Care Association
Tipton County Chamber of Commerce	Baptist Memorial Hospital-Tipton
Midsouth Foodbank	LeBonheur Children's Hospital
First Choice Pregnancy Center	Tennessee State University
The Center for Family Development	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee
Innovative Women's Health Specialists	Amerigroup
Mental Health Cooperative	University of Memphis
Carey Center, Inc.	City of Covington, TN
ETR	Town of Atoka, TN
TN Independent Colleges & Universities Asso.	Dyersburg State Community College
Medical Foundation Nashville	CHI Memorial
Siloam Health	NAMI-Chattanooga
Unite US	Project Access
Wellness & Stress Clinic	Knox Area Senior Center
Music City PrEP Clinic	Rutherford County Health Department
Care Access	McNairy County Health Department
Sostento	Pfizer, Inc.
Sexual Assault Center	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
Helping Hands of Tennessee	Belmont University
Wayne County Schools	University of Memphis
Lifespan Health	Shelby County Health Department
Clinton City Schools	Church Health
Williamson County Schools	Meharry Medical College
Rutherford County Schools	Wayne County Health Department
Bledsoe County Schools	Tennessee Tech University
Franklin Special School District	Giles County Department of Health
Hamilton County Schools	Dyersburg State Community College
Cumberland County Schools	LMU Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine
UT Ag. Extension Office-Giles County	UT College of Medicine
TN Department of Education: Farm to Schools	Marion County Health Department
Giles County Schools	Meigs County Health Department
Tennessee Center for Workforce Development	City of Decatur, TN
Marion County Schools	HUD
UT Ag. Extension Office-Marion County	Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health Center
Chattanooga Coalition	Cocke County Health Department
Green Spaces, Inc.	Franklin County Health Department
Boys & Girls Club-Ocoee Region	ACS- Cancer Action Network

Meigs County EMS	TCCCY
Natural Health Cooperative	Tennessee Department of Human Services
Cocke County EMS	Franklin County Prevention Coalition
Campora Family Resource Center	CHANT
Life Line, Inc.	Volunteer Behavioral Health
Child Care Resource & Referral	Franklin County Coordinated School Health
Franklin County Chamber of Commerce	Partners for Healing
Health Connect	Bennett's Pharmacy
Rebounding Joy, Inc.	Franklin County Government
Blessings, Inc.	Sequatchie County Health Department
Brooks Healing Center	VA- Chattanooga
Franklin County Sheriff's Department	Children's Hospital-Erlanger
UT Ag. Extension Office-Franklin County	Salvation Army
NAACP-Upper Cumberland	S.E. Office of Aging & Disability
Medical Missions	Cookeville Herald Leader
Man of Global Mission	Congressman John Rose's Office
Dekalb County Prevention Coalition	TN Healthcare Campaign
SOCAT	Senator Bill Hagerty's Office
Smithville Chamber of Commerce	YMCA of Greater Chattanooga
Dekalb County Schools	Chattanooga Colon Cancer Foundation
Stephens Center, Inc.	Van Buren County Health Department
Van Buren Coordinated School Health	UHRA
Tennessee State Parks	Bledsoe County Health Department
Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency	Greene County Health Department
Bledsoe County Schools	Grundy County Health Department
Greene County Juvenile Court	ACS- Nashville
Hope Center-Greene County	Lemoyne-Owen College
Greene County Anti-Drug Coalition	Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Grundy County Schools	Americorp
Grundy County Sheriff's Department	Performance Medicine
Grundy County Anti-Drug Coalition	University of the South
UT Ag. Extension Office-Grundy County	Washington County Health Department
McMinn County Schools	East Tennessee State University
Full Circle Medical Center for Women	Boys & Girls Club of Johnson City
SETAAAD SNAP	McMinn County Health Department
Acadia Health	Tennessee Department of Children's Services
Nurture the Next	Tennessee Wesleyan University
McMinn County Sheriff's Department	YMCA-Athens
Athens City Schools	Niswonger/Children's Resource Center
Chattanooga Area Foodbank	East Tennessee Mental Health Association
McMinn Juvenile Services	Ballad Health
Signal Centers	Macon County Health Department
SERO	Macon County Hospital
A Step Ahead	Macon County Coordinated School Health
Journey Pure	Jefferson County Health Department
Coordinated Charities	Jefferson County Coordinated School Health

DPA	Jefferson County Senior Center
McMinn County Senior Center	Cherokee Health
Etowah City Schools	Allied Behavioral Health
Home Helpers	Bradley County Health Department
Willowbend Farms	UT Ag. Extension Office-Bradley County
Insight Alliance	Knox County Community Action Committee
Keystone Dental	TN Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking	First Tennessee Area Agency on Aging & Disability
Washington County Schools	A Step Ahead, Inc.
Macon County Schools	Bedford County Health Department
WCTV	Vanderbilt Health
Rural Medical Services	United Way of Greater Memphis
UT Ag. Extension Office-Jefferson County	First Baptist Church-Chattanooga
Rescue 180	Tennessee Department of Correction
Shiloh Baptist Church	AT&T
Nurture the Next	Tennessee National Guard
Families Matter-Bradley County	Leadership Memphis
Father's Fighting for Their Children's Hearts	Regions Bank
Man 2 Man	Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center
National Partnership for Community Leadership	Tennessee Medical Foundation
Mid-Cumberland Head Start Division	Polk County Health Department
Upper Cumberland Development District	UT Ag. Extension-Polk County
True Dads	Tennessee Pharmacist Association
Stronger Than My Father, Inc.	Saint Mary's Catholic Church, Gatlinburg
Family Forward- Chattanooga	Tennessee Public Health Association
Bedford County Clerk's Office	Tennessee Community Health Workers Association
Bedford County Jail	Tennessee State Employees Association
Bedford County Juvenile Court	Rural Health Association of Tennessee
Bedford County Schools	NAMI-Tennessee
CarePortal, Inc.	100 Black Men of Tennessee
Center for Family Development	100 Black Women of Tennessee
Child Care Resource & Referral	City of Chattanooga
Community Clinic/Connecting Forward	City of Knoxville
Community Development Center	East Tennessee Wellness Roundtable
Drug Rescue	YMCA of Greater Knoxville
First Choice Pregnancy Center	YMCA of Greater Nashville
Health Connect America, Inc.	Planet Fitness, Inc.
Junior's House, Inc.	Golds Gym
Shelbyville Soup Kitchen	The UPS Store, Knoxville
Heal 90	Tennessee General Assembly
Cage Fitness	Tennessee Department of Health
No Regrets Men's Ministry	
Maximus	
First Things First, Inc.	

Tyro 365	
Purpose Point Community Health	
UT Ag. Extension Office-Sullivan County	
Holographic Health, Inc.	
UT Ag. Extension Office-Washington County	
American Jobs Center	
Helen R. Tucker Adult Development Center	
Cannon Chiropractic	
Bluff City Vascular	
UT Martin Care Team	
Kid Link Community Services	
Professional Care Services, Inc.	
Ripley Fire Department	
Dorisha Wright Designs	
Persevere, Inc.	
Southern Roofing & Renovations	
Zeta Phi Beta Alumni Chapter	
Save the Children, Inc.	
STAR Physical Therapy	
Fammo Entertainment	
American In-Home Center	
Holding Little Ones in Mind	
Free Medical Clinic	
Nashville Diaper Connection	
Mount Caanan Baptist Church	
Faith Family Medical Center	
Galilee Baptist Church-Chattanooga	
Morning Star Baptist Church-Humboldt	
St. John Baptist Church-Stanton	
World Overcomers Church-Jackson	



LEARNING OBJECTIVES and SKILLS

Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to better facilitate and optimize twoway communication with boys and men in ways that resonate with them and will motivate them to fully and actively engage with the health care system. **Specifically, participants will learn:**

- How to communicate with men and boys in rural communities in a way that makes them feel comfortable and welcome in health care settings
- How to empower and motivate boys and men to engage with the health care system and take on a more active role in their own and their loved ones' wellness and health care
- How to create and conduct successful programs for men and boys—and how to get males to attend

- To recognize and address the unique sociocultural considerations in working with boys and men
- To enhance understanding and engagement of men and boys with regard to COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and vaccinations in general.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Individuals who live, work, and practice in rural Tennessee communities, including:

- All healthcare and public health providers
- Primary care organization employees
- Community members in faith-based organizations
- Educators and social service providers

For More Information, Contact Us on Academy.HealthyMen



Why We Need Better Ways to Motivate Men to Actively Participate in Health Care and Wellness

- Male lifespan in the US is 5.5 years shorter than women's
- Men are half as likely as women to have had a primary care medical encounter in the past year
- Men account for 70% of opiate deaths, 75% of suicides, and 95% of workplace deaths
- An estimated 58% of all COVID-19 deaths are in males

Underwritten by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & Presented by Men's Health Network (MHN) in collaboration with the Rural Health Association of Tennessee (RHAT).

*Eligibility and participant capacity as determined by MHN and RHAT.

A New Self-Paced On-Line Educational Program

**Certified Men's Health
Educator Program.
- No-Fee For Qualifying
Individuals Who Live Or
Work In Tennessee**

**This program is designed for
anyone who works with boys
and men and who wants to
develop educational and
communications skills that
will help them better
communicate about
health and wellness to
boys and men.**

MHN
Men's Health Network™
www.menshealthnetwork.org

**A Self-Paced
Virtual Learning
Certificate Program**



**HMI
63 Sunnyside Ave
Mill Valley, CA 94941**

INFORMED DECISIONS:

Confused about getting COVID-19 Vaccine or COVID Vaccine Booster?



We at Men's Health Network (MHN) realize that many people are concerned and confused about the ongoing usefulness and the safety of COVID vaccines and boosters.

The Value Of Being Up-To-Date With COVID-19 Vaccinations

COVID-19 can still be a dangerous virus, particularly for people with medical conditions like diabetes, obesity, and low levels of immunity. It is also dangerous for older persons.

Confused about getting COVID Vaccine or COVID Vaccine Booster?

Vaccines of all types have saved many millions of lives even though all vaccines have occasional adverse reactions, so get the facts about how the Covid vaccine applies to you!

Additional COVID-19 Resource Links

- <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccinations-tracker.html>
- <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1202065/population-with-covid-vaccine-by-state-us>
- <https://news.columbia.edu/news/overcome-vaccine-hesitancy-messages>



COVID-19 VACCINE HESITANT?

Make an Educated Decision!

Health for you and your family matters!



MensHealthNetwork.org

THE BEST WAY:
**DECIDE YOUR OWN
VACCINATION NEEDS**

For more information about vaccine usefulness and safety you may want to visit the independent National Foundation For Infectious Diseases website: <https://www.nfid.org/>



**PERSONALIZED
MEDICAL APPROACH**

A one-size for all approach to medical care just doesn't work well. MHN believes the best way to make an informed personal decision about vaccination is to talk with a qualified healthcare professional in your community. This individual discussion will help you evaluate the usefulness of COVID vaccination based on your own medical condition, circumstances at home, at work and in your community.

Dialogue is the best way to make an informed decision about medical matters.

**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AND GET
ANSWERS FOR YOU!**



MHN
Men's Health Network®
menshealthnetwork.org

**FOR MORE
RESOURCES:**



P.O. Box 75972,
Washington, D.C. 20013



202-543-MHN-1 (6461) EXT. 101



Info@MensHealthNetwork.org

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**YOUR HEALTH IS
OUR PRIORITY**





Men's Health Network®

Episode 1, Webinar Series:

"THRIVE VACCINE EDUCATION & VACCINE HESITANCY"

 Thursday, 19th October, 2023

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Scan to Join on 10/19/23

**100%
ONLINE**

ID: 818 747 1004



Register now at:

Info@MensHealthNetwork.org

Part of the Certified Men's Health Educator (CMHE) Webinar Series

ABOUT THE WEBINAR...



THE SPEAKER

Maddie Manning

THRIVE,
Program Assistant



In this webinar, Maddie Manning will cover the THRIVE grant & the UT extension, community nurse navigators, & education provided to the community about routine vaccinations.

Maddie will cover vaccine hesitancy & the lack of immunizations among school-aged children, causing diseases that have previously been eradicated to reappear & spread.

What is CMHE?

The Certified Men's Health Educator (CMHE) program is offered to healthcare & other professionals interested in improving the health of those living in their community, especially those who live or work in designated rural counties in Tennessee.

Training for these professionals is provided in part by Men's Health Network, the Rural Health Association of Tennessee, & funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

Those who successfully complete the course will earn the "Certified Men's Health Educator" designation.



Episode 2, Webinar Series:

"VETERAN'S RESILIENCY & CAMPUS LIFE"

 Thursday, 30th of November

 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Scan to Join on 11/30/23

**100%
ONLINE**

ID: 811 4716 8877



Or Register Today via Email:

Info@MensHealthNetwork.org

*Part of the Certified Men's Health
Educator (CMHE) Webinar Series*



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Episode 3, Webinar Series:

"THE TENNESSEE CANCER COALITION & ADVANCES IN CANCER CONTROL INITIATIVES."

Thursday, 21st of December

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Scan to Join on 12/20/23

100% ONLINE

D: 828 8350 5514



ABOUT THE WEBINAR...



THE SPEAKER...

Rachel Matlock

Program Manager –
Comprehensive
Cancer Control Program



In her current role, Rachel is with the TN Department of Health. Rachel oversees the TN Cancer Coalition, a multidisciplinary network of stakeholders across the state who work toward cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, & survivorship. She is from Paris, TN, & graduated with her MS from the University of TN.

Rachel serves on multiple Boards of Directors for various organizations in West TN & is passionate about community involvement. She has a 6-year-old little girl & enjoys all things outdoors.

Or Register Today via Email:
Info@MensHealthNetwork.org

Part of the Certified Men's Health Educator (CMHE) Webinar Series



Episode 4, Webinar Series:

“EMPOWERING HEALTH HPV UNDERSTANDING: INSIGHTS FROM A PHYSICIAN CONSULTANT”

Thursday, 25th of January

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Scan to Join on 01/25/24

100% ONLINE



ID: 814 6585 4723

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Info@MensHealthNetwork.org

Part of the *Certified Men's Health Educator (CMHE) Webinar Series*

ABOUT THE WEBINAR...



THE SPEAKER...

Hannah Dudney, MD

*Women's Health Physician
Consultant, Division of
Family Health & Wellness*



Dr. Dudney is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology. Additionally, Dr. Dudney has focused on quality improvement, patient advocacy, eliminating disparities, & improving access to care.

With the TN Dept. of Health, Dr. Dudney provides clinical expertise & program advising for cancer screening & maternal & child health programs. She chairs the Birth Defects Registry Advisory Committee & co-chairs the TN Maternal Mortality Review Committee & TN Perinatal Advisory Committee.

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Men's Health Network®

Episode 6,
Webinar Series:

"COLORECTAL CANCER & MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH"

📅 Thursday, 28th of March

🕒 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Scan to Join on 03/28/2024

100%
ONLINE

ID: 833 9837 3416



Or Register Today via Email:

Info@MensHealthNetwork.org

Part of the Certified Men's Health
Educator (CMHE) Webinar Series

ABOUT THE WEBINAR...



THE SPEAKER:

Michael Holtz

Volunteer Fundraising
Director & Board of Directors,
Man Up to Cancer

Michael Holtz is a 12-year survivor of Stage III B rectal cancer & an advocate for cancer patients, survivors, & caregivers. He is the Volunteer, Fundraising Director & sits on the board for Man Up to Cancer, which is dedicated to helping men facing cancer avoid isolation & find connection to improve their mental health, quality of life, & clinical outcomes.

Holtz is a SR Communications & Marketing Specialist at ORAU, & is a member of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network National Advocacy Team, Fight Colorectal Cancer Research Advocacy Training & Support program, the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship Cancer Policy Advocacy Team, & as the patient voice on the team revising the guidelines from the American Society for Radiation Oncology rectal cancer treatment.

Holtz lives in Knoxville with his wife, Sarah, & their rescue dog, Marley.

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