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TCMA Vital Signs Feb 20, 2022

1 message

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Travis County



Medical Alliance



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 23 - Book Group, *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang
- March 3 - Joint Installation of TCMS and TCMA Boards at the Oasis
- March 23 - Book Group, *The Biggest Bluff* by Maria Konnikova
- March 24 - Saint Louise House meal prep
- April 2 - Party With A Purpose - Palm Springs Cool!
- April 19 - General Meeting at Star Hill Ranch and Grant presentation
- April 27 - Book Group, *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles
- April 28-29 - ALLMED in Houston

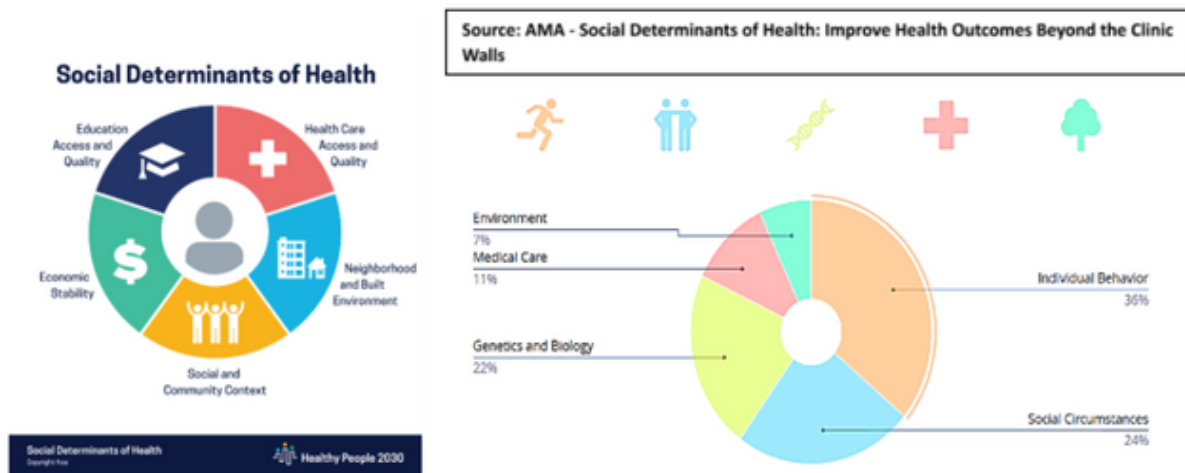


Note from TCMA President Jenny Stern

Hello Alliance Friends,

Happy Presidents' Day weekend! The Alliance has a few busy months ahead as spring approaches – our installation at the Oasis, Party with a Purpose (GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!), volunteering at Sacred Heart Community Clinic and Saint Louise House, our grant presentations at the general meeting in April at Star Hill Ranch, AllMed in Houston, and more.

Our general meeting on February 15 featured Dr. Jeffrey Hutchinson, who spoke to us on the important topic of health disparities in the Black community. He discussed the social determinants of health, shown in the chart on the left, which helps to explain health outcomes between various communities, and are often affected by racism in its many forms.



One glaring disparity that Dr. Hutchinson drew attention to is the high rate of infant and maternal mortality for Black women and infants, including in Texas, with Black women's maternal mortality being about 3 times that of White women, regardless of level of education. There is much work to be done to address these disparities, and we had an engaging discussion after the formal presentation to learn more about the causes and possible solutions to this complicated problem. Dr. Hutchinson is a specialist in adolescent medicine at People's Community Clinic, Co-Chair of Community Outreach of the Austin Black Physicians Association, founder and CEO of the Wade Alliance, and a DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) leadership consultant. Many thanks to Dr. Hutchinson for his excellent and compelling presentation.

Hoping we enter Covid risk stage 4 soon,

Jenny

president@tcmalliance.org



2022 Party With a Purpose - Palm Springs Cool

Tickets for Party With a Purpose - Palm Springs Cool! are now on sale at [Party With A Purpose | Travis Cty Med All \(tcmalliance.org\)](#). You can purchase party tickets, raffle package tickets, and donate to our grant recipients through Fund-a-Need.

Limited party tickets are available, so don't delay in purchasing yours! Find necessary details on the Alliance website or contact Julie Cowan (jscowan@aol.com) and Christina Fenrich (cafenrich@gmail.com) with questions.

We are grateful to in-kind donor **The Fighting 69th Irish Whiskey** for their support of our event! This whiskey, distilled and imported from Ireland, will be featured at a tasting and demonstration the evening of our party. It is also central to our craft cocktail.

According to its website, <https://fighting69thwhiskey.com>, this whiskey pays tribute to the Fighting 69th Regiment.

"The regiment has seen combat in five wars: the American Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Iraq War and the Afghanistan War. It has also participated in 23 campaigns, so many that the staffs of its regimental colors are authorized to be one foot longer than normal to accommodate them all."

The site goes on to say, *"Founded in 1849 as the First Irish Regiment, the Fighting 69th initially wasn't a US military unit at all. Rather it was an all-Irish citizen militia, created to train young Irishmen living in New York City in military tactics, in hopes of eventually going back to Ireland to expel the British from the Irish homeland."*

According to Whiskey Wash, the flavors in this whiskey *"are subtle but balanced. Not too sweet, not too hot, just a pleasant easy drinker that will leave you with a smile. Though it does not pack a punch as the original Fighting 69th was known for, it is a lovely example of the Irish tradition of blended distillation and well worth your time and palate."*

A bottle of Fighting 69th Irish Whiskey and ten sipping glasses is the basis for the *My Way/Frank Sinatra* raffle package that includes in addition to the whiskey and ten glasses a spherical ice cube tray, Tiffany & Co. playing cards, Ultimate Book of Card Games, a Trader Joe's food basket, and a cozy monogrammed blanket courtesy of Alliance member Renee Stanley. Value: \$435

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact co-chairs Julie Cowan (jscowan@aol.com) or Christina Fenrich (cafenrich@gmail.com).

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St. Louise House

What's new? - A volunteer opportunity at Saint Louise House! Beginning in March, Saint Louise House is looking to have volunteers help in their program offices at both locations. As a volunteer, you will help answer phones, greet residents when they come in, help with food bank and other deliveries, and help with some very basic data entry needed in the day-to-day operations. This will be an on-going 8 week commitment. Shifts are Monday - Friday during normal business hours.

Saint Louise House is looking for volunteers who:

- Are 18 or above
- Can commit to working the same shift at the same location every week for a minimum of 8 weeks
- Willing to complete a background check if you have not already done so

There are both daily morning and afternoon shifts at each of their two locations. Sound interesting to you? Or would like more details on the opportunity? If so, please contact Donna Clendennen, Volunteer & Community Engagement Manager at 512.302.0027 ext. 217 or dclendennen@saintlouiseshouse.org.



Outreach & Support

Well wishes go out to Ge Crozier who recently had knee surgery.

Condolences to the family of long-time member Marilyn Blewett who passed away recently.



Membership renewals – target date is March 31st!

TCMA membership numbers continue to increase, but we do have some people who haven't yet renewed. We encourage these valued members to renew by March 31st. Go to the <https://www.tcmalliance.org/> website and look for the "Membership" tab. You'll find instructions on how to renew online, by mail or by phone. Or call the TMA Knowledge Center to speak to someone who can help at 800-880-7955.

Take advantage of the many benefits of TCMA membership. And please be sure to invite qualified friends and associates to join. We would love your support as we work together for a healthier Central Texas!

Lori Benold - VP Membership



AllMed is coming soon – you won't want to miss it! To learn more and to register, click here: [AllMED April 28-29 in Houston.](#)

Medical Affairs

Medical Affairs Early voting ends this Friday, Feb. 25. Remember, the earlier you vote, the fewer phone calls and texts you will receive from campaigns asking you to vote for their candidates. And the lines on Friday will most likely be long. Recent redistricting has made some of the partisan races we typically see in the November general election a thing of the past. Prior to the new district maps, we saw an increasing number of seats classified as “toss-up” or “battleground,” meaning the parties battled it out in November for that seat. But this cycle, with new legislative districts, roughly 90% of the races will be decided in the primary, due to the partisan maps.

Please make voting a top priority over the next week. Encourage your friends, colleagues, family, and patients to get to the polls.

Some quick homework will make voting go smoothly. Review your candidate options, which can be [found on your county's ballot](#). You can find the list of TEXPAC-endorsed candidates on the [TEXPAC website](#). Don't be surprised to find a list of questions at the end of your ballot that the political parties have placed there. They are non-binding but give the parties an idea of what their voters are thinking on many hot-button topics.

Here's what you need to know to vote:

- 1) Double-check if you are registered to vote. If you are not registered, it is too late for this election, but you can still [register to vote for the runoff elections](#) after the March 1 primaries.
- 2) Find a [polling location](#). You can vote at any polling location in your home county. Look for the “VOTE HERE” sign.
- 3) Review the acceptable forms of [valid photo ID](#). You can also bring one of the [alternate supporting forms of ID](#) along with a completed Reasonable Impediment Declaration, which the polling location will provide.
- 4) Absentee ballots must be received by election day, March 1.

Julie Cowan - VP Medical Affairs



The Annual Fund Drive is still ongoing!

Thank you to all who have donated already.

Go to [Donate to Annual Fund Drive](#) to contribute online and to [2021-2022 Fund Drive Donors](#) to see the complete list of donors. Any amount is greatly appreciated and supports our grants program and community service initiatives.

Inga Ruckman, Annual Fund Drive Chair



Book Group

Feb 23 - *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang

March 23 - *The Biggest Bluff* by Maria Konnikova.

April 27 - *Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles

To join the Book Group, visit tcmalliance.org and click on the Book Review tab, under News & Events.



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