

# ACTION REPORT

YOUTH HEALTH  
COLLABORATIVE

24  
25

The Youth Health Collaborative (YHC) brings Nashville-focused stakeholders together to ensure all students have the resources and support they need to be healthy. YHC serves to build and sustain relationships and communication between stakeholders across the community.

Data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) has shown that, overall, the following groups of students in Metro Nashville Public Schools tend to exhibit more risky behaviors:

- Female students
- LGBTQ+ students
- Students with mental health needs
- Students who have experienced one or more ACE (adverse childhood experience)



Table promoting **MNPS for Her**, one of the programs funded by the CDC grant that YHC supports

## YOUTH HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

**24-25  
OUTCOMES**

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Relationships are key:** in order to ensure students and families can access high-quality, streamlined resources, we must work to cultivate true and authentic connections between schools and community partners that truly embed the work of partners into the everyday operations of schools.
- **Students want to be heard:** we must also ensure that students have a voice in the services offered to them.
- **Healers must be healthy too:** Adult wellness is critical; the teachers, administrators, and staff working with students need resources and support for their own health and well-being in order to ensure they have the ability to meet the needs of the students and families they serve.

The members of the YHC began the year with a four-month data journey, seeking to learn more about the overall health and well-being of our students. Following that, they sought to understand more about services currently offered to students and families, both in and out of school, in an effort to find ways to increase the access to and availability of these services.

A key area of study and continued work will be how community partners can best support MNPS' Collaborative Referral System (CRS). This internal process is intended to streamline referrals for students and families to resources offered both in and out of school. Looking ahead to the 25-26 year, the YHC will continue to work towards:

- Creating up-to-date, easy-to-access lists of needed resources for school staff, including a process for matching resources to specific needs
- Encouraging students/families/community partners to use the Collaborative Referral System
- Using aggregated data from completed CRS forms to inform future resource needs

The Collaborative members also spent time throughout the year planning a community partner summit, which is currently planned for September 2025, where we will work to build connections between school and community partners. We are grateful to the Maddox Foundation for their financial support for this upcoming event!



YHC members such as DYMOM shared overviews of their programming with the collaborative throughout the year



MNPS support services, such as advocacy coaches pictured here, also shared overviews of their programming with YHC to better connect and streamline internal and external services for students

## **YOUTH HEALTH COLLABORATIVE**

## **LEADERSHIP & ROSTER**

### **24-25 LEADERSHIP**

Shannon Key (MNPS)  
Melissa Gordon (MNPS)  
Yolonda Radford (Metro Public Health Department)

### **24-25 ALIGNMENT STAFF**

Melissa Jagers, Alignment Nashville  
Morgan Tubbs, Alignment Nashville

### **24-25 ROSTER**

Jonna Alexander (Connections Wellness Group)  
Paul Augustyniak (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention-TN Chapter)  
Simyka Carlton (MNPS)  
Nautica Caswell (Metro Public Health Department)  
Sarah Cermak (MNPS)  
Mary Crnabori (MNPS)  
Brittany Edmondson (MNPS)  
Edwina Freeman (DYMON)  
Tracy Glascoe (Vanderbilt Behavioral Health)  
Kathy Gracey (Vanderbilt University Medical Center)

Latissa Hall (Metro Public Health Department)  
Maria Heerdt (MNPS)  
Vanessa Helbig Johnson (YWCA Nashville)  
Shamika Higgins (Metro Action Commission)  
Kay Higgs (STARS Nashville)  
Charity Ingersoll (Vanderbilt Institute for Medicine and Public Health)  
Ashley King (Hope Clinic for Women)  
Michael Kirshner (TN Voices)

Amy Kraus (MNPS)  
Vanessa Lazon (MNPS)  
Shatina Marshall (MNPS)  
Hailey Nutter (The Renfrew Center)  
Catherine Sakarapanee (MNPS)  
Whitney Salyer (Centerstone)  
LaSeanda Sanders (MNPS)  
Jen Starsinic (Girls Write Nashville)  
Sheldon Walker (Metro Public Health Department)  
Makeda Watson (MNPS)  
Lauren Williams (MNPS)  
Joseph Wilson (STARS Nashville)  
Natasha Yokley (Meharry Medical College)