

MEDIA RELEASE

Canton City Public Health

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For Immediate Release

Canton City Public Health Increases Efforts to Improve Health Equity During National Minority Health Month

(Canton, OH) – As part of National Minority Health Month, Canton City Public Health (CCPH) announces the addition of new staff members and outreach efforts to improve health equity within our community.

Two new CCPH team members who are leading our efforts to improve minority health and health equity are Sadé Tyson, Stark County THRIVE Neighborhood Navigator, and Serena Draper Hendershot, Community Health Equity Coordinator. Sadé’s role is to conduct outreach in various areas of Stark County where there has been a history of preterm and low birth weight births, especially in our African American community, and to connect pregnant persons with the wide array of community resources to best meet their immediate needs. Sadé can be reached at (330) 575-3048.

As Community Health Equity Coordinator, Serena’s work will be tied directly to the Board of Health of Canton City Public Health’s 2020 Resolution declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis and the actions outlined to address this crisis. Initially, Serena will be guiding internal staff through a self-assessment of the department’s policies and practices to identify barriers to achieving our goal of health for all. A steering committee comprised of internal staff and community members will analyze the results of the assessment while developing an action plan to be implemented in the year 2023.

One new project includes a Facebook LIVE Series of interviews that will highlight several community members/leaders who are working toward equity. “We are excited to announce this monthly series of interviews,” stated Health Commissioner Jim Adams. “These interviews with people who live and work in our community will provide insight and vision on how we can work toward change and improvement.” The kickoff session featured Jasmine Wagster, Founder of Labor in Love Midwifery, who is Stark County’s only Black midwife. These sessions can be viewed on the Stark County THRIVE Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StarkCoTHRIVE> .

With a focus on equity and trust, two of our core values, CCPH is determined to improve communication and engagement within the community to reduce disparity, improve equity and strengthen partnerships. To this end, Jim Adams, Health Commissioner, and Serena will be holding a community roundtable on Thursday, April 28th from 3:00pm – 5:00pm to discuss her role at the department and explore avenues to achieve success in these areas. For details on the community roundtable, contact Serena at shendershot@cantonhealth.org.

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