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Practicum Site:  
Davidson County Mayor's Office, Metropolitan  
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### Ending the Epidemic - Addressing HIV Prevalence in Nashville

**Purpose:** The office of the mayor has a division dedicated to improving health outcomes in Nashville and Davidson County through program and policy interventions. These community-based initiatives include efforts to reduce youth violence, educate stakeholders on behavioral health and wellness, and end the spread of HIV in Nashville. This practicum focused on one of these initiatives, Ending the Epidemic, to address HIV prevalence in Nashville. Ending the Epidemic has six specific goals to accomplish before 2024: (1) ensure that 90% of Nashville residents living with HIV know their serostatus, (2) decrease by two-thirds the number of Nashville residents with newly acquired HIV, (3) link 90% of those diagnosed with HIV to care within one month of diagnosis, (4) engage 90% of the people diagnosed with HIV in care, (5) ensure that 90% of those engaged in care will achieve viral suppression, and (6) eliminate disparities in HIV outcomes.

**Design:** To ensure that Ending the Epidemic goals are met, several actions needed to be addressed prior to implementation. Legislation had to be developed to make the program official; an advisory council would need to be created, and press releases must be written.

**Outcomes:** In May 2019, the Ending the Epidemic initiative was announced to the public in a press release along with the program's goals and action items. On May 19, Mayor Briley signed an executive order that created the Ending the Epidemic Advisory Council. Through an intensive review process, a diverse set of nominees from the community including impacted patients, researchers, advocates,

physicians, politicians, and clergy leaders was created. The list for the Advisory Council of community stakeholders from a variety of backgrounds, all passionate about ending HIV in Nashville, was submitted to the Mayor for vetting.

**Interpretation:** The signing of the executive order was just the beginning of what will be a long and tedious process. The members on the Advisory Council have yet to be finalized, and once they are, swift action must be taken in order to confirm that the proper steps are being taken to accomplish the goals in the allotted timeline. Despite a new mayor being elected, Ending the Epidemic remains at the forefront of the office's health related initiatives.

