



Commemorating National Minority Health Month

Every April, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Minority Health (OMH) in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies commemorates "National Minority Health Month" to raise awareness about the health disparities faced by communities of color. Our mission at the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) is to work with diverse communities to eliminate health gaps and promote optimal health in Oregon. We know that by connecting people, policy and programs, we can make substantial, measurable progress towards achieving health equity.

Communities of color in Oregon continue to grow. Currently, one in five persons in Oregon is a person of color, while 40 percent of members on the Oregon Health Plan are persons of color. These communities continue to experience severe health disparities as illuminated in the 2011 and 2013 [State of Equity Reports](#). In order to improve health outcomes for all of Oregon's communities, we must support strength based, community led, and culturally-specific approaches, such as [Regional Health Equity Coalitions \(RHECs\)](#).



Leann Johnson
Interim Director, Office of
Equity and Inclusion

RHECs are uniquely positioned to engage communities in identifying their health priorities and implementing policies and programs to eliminate health disparities. As members of the diverse communities in which they reside, RHECs are an effective way to engage and empower community members from across the state to work collaboratively towards achieving health equity in Oregon. Read more about a recent RHEC accomplishment [in this issue](#).

It is important to note at this point that our state and agency have undergone recent changes. That said, the Oregon Health Authority's new director, Lynne Saxton, continues to reinforce the agency's commitment to health equity. Some restructuring is underway and I am pleased to announce that the Office of Equity and Inclusion is one of the areas that will continue to report to the OHA director. To read more, please see the latest [OHA Director's Message](#).

Much of my time as the OEI interim director has been spent on internal work as our agency embarks on transition. One of my current primary points of stress is not being able to be out and about in the community as much as I would like in this role. As always, our office is available to you as a resource and I am always open to exploring opportunities for engagement and partnership. Thank you for continuing to work toward equity, inclusion, and a healthy Oregon.

Warmest regards,

Leann R. Johnson

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OEI News and Updates

RSVP NOW - Health Equity Researchers of Oregon (HERO) Presents: Peer Support Specialists and Peer Wellness Specialists in Behavioral Health

Date: Monday, April 13th

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Clackamas County Behavioral Health, 11211 SE 82nd Avenue, Main Conference Room, Happy Valley, Oregon 97086

This HERO presentation will focus on the continuum of services under the Peer Support Specialist and Peer Wellness Recovery Specialist positions covered in the Oregon Traditional Health Worker Rule. The presenters will also discuss what role Peer Support Specialists and Peer Wellness Recovery Specialists serve in achieving health equity.

Presenters: Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN), Clackamas County Behavioral Health (CCBH) and Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare.

RSVP for the April 13th meeting [here](#) and visit the [HERO webpage](#) for more information.



Oregon Community Health Worker Research and Education Consortium (ORCHWREC) team presented at the first HERO Committee meeting of 2015

DELTA Program now offering CMEs

The [Developing Equity Leadership through Training and Action \(DELTA\) program](#) is pleased to announce the awarding of **up to 42 Continuing Medical Education credits** for current participating licensed health care providers through joint providership with Northwest Permanente Department of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development. For more information, visit [the DELTA webpage](#).

DELTA

Developing Equity Leadership
through Training and Action

Brown Bag Lunch with Janet Ohene-Frempong: Health Literacy and Effective Organizational Communication*

Date: Thursday, April 16th

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: Oregon Health Authority, Lincoln Building, 421 SW Oak Street, Pine Room (1st floor), Portland, Oregon 97204

Cost: FREE!

Please join OEI and Janet Ohene-Frempong for a presentation that will cover the following topics:

- Health literacy as a barrier to optimal health care and health outcomes, and the need for plain language to address health disparities;
- Ways to Communicate Effectively Across Literacy Levels, Languages, Cultures;
- Technical issues related to the different methods of communicating health information (e.g. print, website, smart phone, etc.)
- Organizational Strategies for Promoting Effective Communication and Health Equity.

*We are **currently at capacity** for the in-person meeting, but feel free to register for the online webinar [here](#).

Upcoming Community Events

Women In Transportation | Inclusive Transportation Systems for People with Disabilities

Date: April 14th

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: The Sentinel Hotel - 614 SW 11th Avenue, Portland, OR

SO Health-E Southern Oregon | Health Literacy Conference

Date: April 17th

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Jackson County Health and Human Services Building - 140 S. Holly St, Medford, OR 97501

2015 Northwest Environmental Health Conference

Date: April 17th

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Doubletree Hotel - 1000 NE Multnomah St., Portland, OR 97232

Mercy Corps | US Japan Council Presents Stories from Tohoku

Date: April 17th

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Mercy Corps Aceh Room - 45 SW Ankeny St., Portland, OR 97204

National Indian Child Welfare (NICWA) | 33rd Annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference

Date: April 19-22nd

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Urban League of Portland | 2015 Career Fair

Date: April 22nd

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Doubletree Hotel - 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR, 97232

Oregon Primary Care Association | Engaging Our Communities Symposium

Date: April 22nd - April 24th

Time: Varies by day

Location: Lloyd Center Doubletree - 1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, Oregon 97232

PFLAG Portland Black Chapter | 6th Anniversary Celebration

Date: April 24th

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Location: Ambridge Events Center - 1333 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Volunteers of America | Symposium on Diversity, Inclusion, and Economic Stability

Date: May 8th

Time: 1:30p.m - 4:30 p.m.

Location: University of Portland - Chiles Center

MRG Foundation | Justice Within Reach

Date: May 15th

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Location: Portland Art Museum, Mark Building, Grand Kridel Ballroom

Say Hey! Sponsored by Legacy Health

Date: May 26th

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Legacy Emanuel Medical Center - Atrium

Job Postings, Internships, and Opportunities

Oregon Health Authority/Department of Human Services Positions

OHA - Addictions and Mental Health - Native American Program Coordinator

OHA - Addictions and Mental Health - Office Specialist

OHA - Office of Health Information Technology - Desktop Support Technician

DHS - Director's Office - DHS Senior Content Coordinator

DHS - Human Services Case Manager

External Job Positions

Washington County - Program Coordinator for the Developmental Disabilities Program

Morrison Child and Family Services - Clinical Manager

Cambia Health Solutions - Stakeholder Communications Manager

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center - School Based Dental Coordinator (Beaverton)

Native American Rehabilitation Association - Family Nurse Practitioner

Seeking Participants - Portland State University: Discrimination in Healthcare Study

Adolfo Cuevas, a doctoral student in Applied Social and Community Psychology at Portland State University and former Health Equity Researchers of Oregon (HERO) presenter, is seeking participants for a study to understand the healthcare experience of members in the Black community. Each participant will receive a \$15 Fred Meyer gift card. If you would like to participate in the study, please click [here](#).

RSVP Now - May 13th Cultural Competency Training: Working with Diverse Populations in Maternal and Child Health

A culturally competent health care professional can respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, in a manner that affirms the worth and preserves the dignity of individuals, families and communities. This is essential for the optimal delivery of care in Maternal and Child Health. Participants will learn the importance of cultural competency and how to implement best practices to improve maternal and child health, for better birth outcomes when working with diverse populations. To learn more, visit this [webpage](#).

Get Involved with OEI!

Recruiting Now: Traditional Health Workers (THW) Commission

The THW Commission promotes the traditional health workforce in Oregon's Health Care Delivery System to achieve Oregon's Triple Aim of better health, better care, and lower costs. The Commission advises and makes recommendations to the OHA, with the intent to ensure the THW program is responsive to consumer and community health needs, while delivering high quality and culturally competent care. For more information or to apply, visit the [THW Commission webpage](#).

Health Equity Policy Committee (HEPC)

HEPC aims to proactively explore, develop, evaluate, recommend, and coordinate stakeholder engagement in advancing cross-cutting, cross-community policy improvements to inform State Health Policy Leadership. For more information, visit the [HEPC webpage](#).

Health Equity Researchers of Oregon (HERO)

HERO is a network of health equity researchers from across the state, working together to inform policy and community-based efforts to improve health in Oregon for culturally diverse communities, while ensuring that policy agendas and community members inform Oregon's research agenda. For more information, visit the [HERO webpage](#).

Connect with us!

To learn more about OEI or send newsletter submissions, please email Rebecca Naga at Rebecca.A.Naga@state.or.us.

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