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"The whole history of the progress of human liberty shows that all concessions yet made to her august claims have been born of earnest struggle. The conflict has been exciting, agitating, all-absorbing, and for the time being, putting all other tumults to silences. It must do this or it does nothing. If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

-Frederick Douglass, 1857

Our Annual Meeting is now just days away! This will be an evening to share accomplishments and honor the people who have contributed significant time and talents to promote health equity and inclusion throughout the state. We also hope that this will be a time for our many community partners and supporters to come together to find new connections and opportunities to collaborate. While it will be my last O EI Annual Meeting as director, it will certainly not be the last one I enjoy.

As is common during this season, I find myself holding conflicting emotions. It is the end of a year, the end of a chapter for me, but also a beginning of a year filled with new beginnings for us all. I am so proud of what the Office of Equity and Inclusion has accomplished this year, but crises in Ferguson, Missouri and around the globe remind me of how much still needs to be done.

At OEI, we find strength in community, in diverse histories of resilience, and in a shared commitment to our vision. We are not only intent on creating a healthier community, but also its enjoyment. One area of celebration is the integration of
Traditional health workers within health systems transformation. The traditional health workers have model been effective at promoting health in Oregon and all over the world for generations. The model is based on trusted community members who are trained to serve in various roles: Community Health Workers, Peer Support and Peer Wellness Specialists, Personal Health Navigators and Doulas. These health professionals provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to their communities in a way that enables people to promote healthy communities and to engage in the care that they most need.

To deepen your appreciation for Traditional Health Workers in Oregon, read about the experience of the Northeast Oregon Network of Traditional Health workers here.

From our office to yours, we wish you a warm, safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with each of you as we move into 2015 and encourage you to join us on December 4th for our Annual Meeting!

Warmest regards,

Patricia Tillman

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OEI News and Updates

Transitions at OEI

On January 2, 2015 we will be saying farewell to our Director of the past 5 and a half years, Tricia Tillman, as she moves into her new role as Deputy Director of the Multnomah County Public Health Department. Tricia's leadership has had a lasting impact on the Oregon Health Authority and state of Oregon. This transition is a great gain for Multnomah County. We look forward to continuing the work that she has set into motion and advancing health equity and inclusion in the across the state. Read Tricia's formal transition letter here.
OEI's Annual Meeting is this week
Join us to hear about our shared accomplishments and honor the people who have contributed significant time and talent to promote equity and inclusion. Come celebrate, share and help us build capacity to improve health outcomes and quality in Oregon.

**Date:** Thursday, December 4th  
**Time:** 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Oregon Convention Center (Oregon Ballroom)  
777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd  
Portland, OR 97232  
*Appetizers and refreshments will be served*

**Please RSVP here!**

The 2015 Delta Cohort has been selected  
This new cohort is comprised of 25 individuals from across the state who are committed to advancing Health Equity and diversity. This dynamic group of diverse leaders includes coordinated care organizations, community based organizations, foundations and public health agencies coming together on a monthly basis. Congratulations to all involved! Interested in supporting our next cohort? There are still opportunities to sponsor a breakfast, lunch or meeting venue! Please contact Anastasia Sofranac at Anastasia.Sofranac@dhsoha.state.or.us

Update on Grantee Projects  
In November, Nani Jackins Park presented on the findings from the Morrison Child and Family Services Language Equity Project. The Language Equity Project is a progressive endeavor by Morrison that aims to greatly improve the quality and accessibility of Morrison’s mental health services for Spanish-speaking clients (children, teens and families) in the Tri-County area. Through this Project Morrison studied how to build a bridge between the increasing need for effective bilingual/bicultural services and the challenges inherent to providing these multi-layered services within a regimented, managed care environment. This project was funded by a grant from the Office of Equity and Inclusion.
Oregon's Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC)
is looking for new committee members

MAC advises the Oregon Health Policy Board and the Oregon Health Authority on the operation of the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Specifically, the committee is seeking representation from:

- OHP members currently serving on their CCO's Community Advisory Council (CAC)
- Professionals from behavioral health and addictions treatment
- Representatives from health care consumer groups including health care safety net

The committee is seeking members who can regularly attend meetings, contribute to policy-level discussions about the future of health care in Oregon, and spend approximately 1-2 additional hours each month to prep for the meetings.

If you are interested in helping to improve Oregon's Medicaid program through the work of the MAC, please contact Oliver Droppers at 503-507-5990 or oliver.droppers@state.or.us. For more information, you may also visit the MAC website.

New partnerships and projects

OEI is now partnering with the department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to conduct a survey of health clinics, hospitals and community based organizations. The purpose of this project is to advance our efforts to integrate traditional health workers into Oregon's health care system.

Preferred Language Cards are available
Preferred language cards will empower our clients to request a qualified or certified health care interpreter in their preferred spoken language. Click here for free access to our downloadable selection of 10 different preferred language cards for your place of work, community partners or outreach events.

OHA News

Grant Funding Press Release
FamilyCare announced a grant program to partner with organizations serving the area's Youth Population. Read more in the following Press Release: FamilyCare to Grant Funds to Youth-Focused Area Health Programs

Open Enrollment
Open Enrollment began November 15th. December 15th is the last day to renew or sign up to get coverage beginning January 1st and the open enrollment period ends February 15th. Visit this website to learn more about the new way to enroll in the Oregon Health Plan.
Get Involved with the Office of Equity and Inclusion!

**Traditional Health Workers (THW) Commission**  
**Recruiting Now!**

We are currently recruiting for 2 two year term early vacated THW seats ending January 30, 2016 and 2 one year term THW seats starting January 31, 2015. All four seats are to be nominated by the Oregon Community Health Workers Association (ORCHWA).

Note: If you are chosen to fill a vacated seat you will join the Commission for the remainder of 2014. If you are chosen for a new termed seat your start date will begin January 2015.  
[Click here to apply](#) now or [here](#) for more information on the THW Commission.

**Health Equity Policy Committee (HEPC)**

The Health Equity Policy Committee 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 go to our website or contact Emily Wang by phone: 971-673-2307 or email: Emily.L.Wang@state.or.us

**Health Equity Researchers of Oregon (HERO)**

Are you a health equity researcher? Join our committee for opportunities to network with other health equity researchers and connect with community based organizations for research opportunities. For more information, contact Rebecca Naga by phone: 971-673-1283 or email: REBECCA.A.NAGA@dhsoha.state.or.us

**Health Care Interpreters Certification Program**

The Oregon Health Care Interpreter (HCI) Program oversees the [Oregon Health Care Interpreter Registry](#) and the qualification and certification of health care interpreters for the state. Interpreters can now apply directly for Oregon HCI qualification or certification, and can submit their application along with their HCI Registry enrollment application at the same time at no additional cost. For more information, contact April Johnson at 971-673-3389 or email [hci.program@state.or.us](mailto:hci.program@state.or.us).
Trainings and Community Events

Trainings

**National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health**
*Priority Spokane: Focusing on Education Outcomes to Improve Health Equity*
**Date:** December 3, 2014  
**Time:** 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

OEI Sponsored Events

**The Miracles Club**
Magic of Miracles Fundraiser  
**Date:** December 5, 2014  
**Time:** 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm  
**Location:** Ambridge Event Center - 1333 NE MLK Jr. Boulevard, Portland, OR

OHA Employee Resource Groups

**Healthy Families Employee Resource group**

**Family Forward Oregon Brown Bag Event**  
**Date:** December 4, 2014  
**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Portland State Office Building, Room 1C - 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland OR

**Environmental Justice Employee Resource Group**
*Access to traditional tribal foods in Oregon's changing climate*
**Date:** December 11, 2014  
**Time:** 1:30 - 2:30 pm  
**Location:** Portland State Office Building Room 1B - 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland OR

Community Events

**Center for Intercultural Organizing**
*Public Involvement Advisory Council*
**Date:** December 2, 2014  
**Time:** 5:30 pm  
**Location:** Portland City Hall - 1221 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR
Beaverton Diversity Advisory Board
Date: December 8, 2014
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Beaverton City Hall - 4755 SW Griffith Drive, Beaverton, OR

Native American Youth and Family Center
Homebuyer Workshop
Date: December 13, 2014
Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Location: NAYA Family Center - 5135 NE Columbia Boulevard, Portland, OR

Native American Rehabilitation Association
29th Annual New Year's Eve Sobriety Powwow
Date: December 31, 2014
Time: 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Location: Oregon Convention Center - 777 NE MLK Jr. Boulevard, Portland, OR

Health Equity in the News

Articles

Local
Oregon State Bar Unveils Diversity & Inclusion Story Wall
Getting ready for Nov. 15 health insurance open enrollment: 2015 Health Insurance Guide

National
Working to Improve Health of Mom and Baby
Oral Hygiene Disparities Among Rich and Poor Also Span Race, Age, And Education Level
Challenges For People With Disabilities Within The Health Care Safety Net
Survey: A Bad Childhood Can Mean Bad Health in Adulthood
Hyatt Recognized by Human Rights Campaign as 'Best Place to Work' for LGBT Equality for 11th Consecutive Year

Resources

African Health
Black/African American Health Profile

Asian American/Pacific Islander Health
Asian American Health Profile
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Health Profile

Hispanic/Latino Health
Hispanic/Latino Health Profile

American Indian/Alaska Native Health
American Indian/Alaska Native Health Profile

Slavic Health

The Slavic Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile

Health Care
In Pursuit of Health Equity: Comparing U.S. and EU Approaches to Eliminating Disparities

Federal Collaboration on Health Disparities Research (FCHDR) - A Federal Partnership working together to identify, promote, and support interagency health disparities research to help inform programs, policy, and practice.
Data Brief: Characteristics of Uninsured Adult Males by Race and Ethnicity

Research
What is Participatory Health Research?
IRB Case: Public health practice vs. research

Career Moves - Job Opportunities

Job Opportunities

Oregon Health Authority/Department of Human Services Positions

Program Analyst 2 (BCCP Policy Communications Coordinator)
Office Specialist 2 (Office Specialist)
Financial Analyst 3 (Financial Analyst)
Operations and Policy Analyst 4 (State Innovation Model Economist)

External Positions

Mosaic Medical (Bend, OR) - Community Health Worker
Samaritan Health Service (Corvallis, OR) - Health Education and Engagement Coordinator
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic (Salem, OR)- Clinic Manager

For Newsletter Submissions or Questions, please contact: Alyssa.McClean@state.or.us