Commemorating Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month

May is the nationally recognized month to commemorate the many contributions of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians. Our growing Asian American, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian communities in Oregon face a variety of systemic barriers to achieving better health outcomes. A recent report published by Multnomah County Health Department in collaboration with the Asian Pacific Islander Network of Oregon (APANO) titled "Health Disparities among Pacific Islanders in Multnomah County," illuminates the many challenges faced by this community.

A critical barrier for some communities is language access. At the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI), we seek to improve language access services in several ways. We provide community education to persons with limited English proficiency to inform community members on their rights to request health care interpretation and support OHA in adopting policies such as Bilingual Proficiency Standards and Alternate Formats and Language Access Services Policy.

Beginning this summer through 2016, OEI will host both in person and online statewide training sessions where health care interpreters can become qualified and certified at no cost to the applicant. The first training session will be in Portland at the Asian Health and Service Center from June 8–9th and the first online training will be offered from June 15th – 20th. OEI also provides "Preferred Language Cards" in 11 languages to community based organizations and other entities, to inform community members on their right to request a health care interpreter in healthcare settings.

Engaging and partnering with community members, advocates, and stakeholders experiencing these disparities is another important step towards improving health outcomes. Tomorrow, May 7th, APANO is hosting their 5th Annual Voices of Change Celebration which is also the opening of the Jade District Community Space.

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 towards equity, inclusion, and a healthy Oregon.

Warmest regards,

Leann Johnson
Interim Director, Office of Equity and Inclusion
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OEI News and Updates

Southern Oregon Health Equity Coalition of Jackson County produces three new health equity reports!

The Regional Health Equity Coalitions (RHECs) are coordinated, community-driven, collaborative groups organized at a regional level to identify policy, system and environmental changes, and craft and implement strategies and policies to reduce health disparities and address the social determinants of health.

This past month, the Southern Oregon Health Equity Coalition produced three new health equity reports on General Health Equity, LGBTQ Health Equity, and Educational Disparities. To learn more about Regional Health Equity Coalitions and read the reports, visit the Southern Oregon Health Equity Coalition webpage.

DELTA 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.

OHA Onward | May 2015

Click here to read the latest OHA Onward message from Lynne Saxton, OHA Director.

Upcoming Community Events

APANO's 5th Annual Voice of Change Celebration
Date: May 7th
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: APANO Community Space - 8114 SE Division Street, OR 97206
Upcoming Community Events (continued)

Volunteers of America | Symposium on Diversity, Inclusion, and Economic Stability
Date: May 8th
Time: 1:30 p.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

9th Annual Portland Queer Documentary Film Festival
Date: May 14th - 17th
Time: Varies by day
Location: Hollywood Theatre - 4122 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland, OR

Say Hey! Sponsored by Legacy Health
Date: May 26th
Time: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Legacy Emanuel Medical Center - Atrium

Metropolitan Family Service - Community Cup
Date: May 30th
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: 19501 NE Davis Street, Portland, OR 97230

IRCO Africa House | Growing Strong Together Fundraiser
Date: June 5th
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Location: Ambridge Event Center - 1333 NE Martin Luther King Blvd., Portland, OR 97232

Familias en Accion | 2015 Latino Health Equity Conference
Date: June 18th
Time: 7:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Location: Portland State University - Smith Ballroom - 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201

An Evening with Wisdom of the Elders
Date: June 19th
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Location: The Melody Ballroom - 614 SE Alder St., Portland, Oregon 97214

Job Postings, Internships, and Opportunities

Oregon Health Authority/Department of Human Services Positions
OHA - Addictions & Mental Health - Nurse Practitioner Medical Clinic (Junction City)

OHA - Addictions & Mental Health - Social Service/Recovery Specialist 1
Job Postings, Internships, and Opportunities (continued)

**OHA/DHS - Office Specialist 2 - Office Assistant**

**External Positions**
- **Project Access Now- Program Implementation Specialist (Rockwood Pathways Project)**
- **Oregon Office of Rural Health - Program Manager (Rural Health Outcomes)**
- **Native American Rehabilitation Association Northwest - Chief Clinical Officer**
- **Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center - Office Health Assistant I**

**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](#).

**Community Partner Resources**

**Health Disparities among Pacific Islanders in Multnomah County (released April 30, 2015)**
The Multnomah County Health Department analyzed health and social data for Pacific Islanders living in Multnomah County. The report, “Health Disparities among Pacific Islanders in Multnomah County” highlights that members of the Pacific Islander community experience serious disparities in areas critical to leading healthy, happy and productive lives.

The Health Department worked closely with the Pacific Islander community to produce this report, the first of its kind specific to this community.

We are committed to addressing these serious disparities, and have identified several strategies that hold promise for improving the health and happiness of communities of color in Multnomah County.
The State of Black Oregon 2015, the result of a two-year program of research, provides an updated look at how Black Oregonians are doing - in schools, jobs, and both urban and rural communities throughout the state. The first State of Black Oregon report was released in 2009.

The 200 page report features 18 essays from leaders throughout Oregon on issues including universal childcare, health equity, gentrification and entrepreneurship. There are 21 case studies from across the state, from Medford in the south, to rural Pendleton in the east to Astoria and the central gentrifying urban centers. It includes 12 pages of detailed data tables.

Taken together, the report is a roadmap to address longstanding inequities in employment, education, housing, health, criminal justice and wealth creation - and to pave the way for success.

Webinar: Hepatitis C and African American Women
May 7, 2015 | 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. ET

In preparation for National Women's Health Week, the Office on Women's Health, Office of Minority Health, and Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy are co-sponsoring a webinar on hepatitis C and African American women.

You are invited to register for this webinar that will highlight:

- Key hepatitis C data including the health disparities among African Americans,
- Recent hepatitis C treatment advances,
- Why African American women should know about hepatitis C, and
- Resources available to help increase awareness and learn more about hepatitis C.

Webinar presenters will also discuss how women may be affected by hepatitis C, challenges and strategies to improve testing and access to care, and what steps individuals and health care providers can take to address hepatitis C in the African American community.

Get Involved with OEI!

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](mailto:Rebecca.A.Naga@state.or.us).

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