



Pursuing Equity

November 3, 2014

Director's Note

Native American Heritage Month

"The essence of global health equity is the idea that something so precious as health might be viewed as a right"

*-Paul Farmer
American Medical Anthropologist*

I invite you to join the Oregon Health Authority and the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) in observing Native American Heritage Month. Our state is home to many resilient Native American tribes and urban communities who have been in Oregon since time immemorial. Federal and state policies disconnected tribes from their cultural and economic strengths, by design. This created historical trauma and significant health disparities that we have documented over time.

In response, OEI is investing in partnerships to confront these challenges directly. We have been building relationships with local Native American tribes, urban Indian communities and advocacy groups. One way we have been able to co-create policies and programs, and build community capacity is to establish Regional Health Equity Coalitions. One of the first of our six Regional Health Equity Coalitions was established in 2011 with the leadership of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Jefferson county residents. The "Let's Talk Diversity" Coalition has made great strides toward health equity in their region. They have worked together to develop a five year plan and priorities which address social determinants of health, including:



Tricia Tillman Director,
Office of Equity and
Inclusion

- advancing healthy food policies in schools, county and tribal jurisdictions,

- creating more jobs which pay a livable wage and are attainable for priority populations and
- improving tobacco awareness.

This work is making a tangible difference in the region and serves as a model for others to follow.



Photographed above are members of the Let's talk Diversity Regional Health Equity Coalition

Our partnership with the regional health equity coalitions helps to bring diverse voices to the table as we move forward in addressing health equity, cultural competency and community engagement. These local activities which have been developed and practiced among our RHECs make a significant impact which may only be realized through collaboration.

In honor of this month, I encourage you to engage with local American Indian tribes or community organizations in your community to improve our state's health and the well being of all Oregonians. Regardless of whether your family has been in Oregon for 200 years or has recently arrived, we have a lot to learn the **thousands** of years of accumulated experience, wisdom, and knowledge of Oregon's original residents.

Warmest regards,

Patricia Gillman

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OEI News and Updates

OEI's Annual Meeting is coming up

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 (Portland Ballroom)
777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd
Portland, OR 97232

Appetizers and refreshments will be served

[Please RSVP here!](#)

Public Comment Period for House Bill 2611 is Open

The public comment period for House Bill 2611 (Cultural Competency Continuing Education for Health Care Professionals) will remain open until Friday, November 14th and the public hearing will be held on November 12th. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

Awards

We are honored to announce that Dr David Cardona, the Language Access Coordinator at OEI, received a lifetime achievement award at the Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association Conference in October. Dr Cardona was selected for this award because of his excellent work in establishing a system for qualifying and certifying Health Care Interpreters in Oregon.

New Faces at OEI

Anistasia Sofranac, the new DELTA coordinator, came to us most recently from the Oregon Center for Nursing, where she lead their efforts to diversify the nursing workforce, developed and coordinated a Nurse leadership program, and provided technical assistance and networking support to project groups.

DELTA

Developing Equity Leadership
through Training and Action

Edith Molina, has returned to OEI to serve as the interim Regional Health Equity Coalition Coordinator. She was with us formerly from 2009-2010 covering for our Migrant Health Coordinator and working to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate emergency preparedness services. Danielle Dronners will be returning from maternity leave in late December.



Bettye Jean Marie Droppers, the newest OEI baby, was born to Danielle and Oliver Droppers in September! Danielle is our Regional Health Equity Coalition Coordinator and Oliver works in the Oregon Office of Health Policy Research.

OEI featured in an NPR story

OEI's work toward advancing the availability of qualified and certified health care interpreters was recently featured in an NPR story! Read it here: [**In The Hospital, A Bad Translation Can Destroy A Life.**](#)

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

We have preferred language cards available for use. These cards will empower our clients to request a qualified or certified health care interpreter in their preferred spoken language. Contact the [**Rebecca Naga**](#) to learn which languages are available and request preferred language cards for your place of work, community partners or outreach events. Click [**here**](#) to view an example preferred language card.

OHA News

Open Enrollment

Open Enrollment begins November 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. The Committee's next meeting will be from 1-4 p.m. on **Thursday, Nov. 20**. 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@dhsosha.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.

Community Events

Medford Community Health Center

Annual Ticket to Health Luncheon

Date: November 5th

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Inn at the Commons, 200 N Riverside Avenue, Medford, OR 97501

Equity Foundation

Equity Awards and Fundraiser

Date: November 8th

Time: 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Location: University Club of Portland. 1225 SW 6th Avenue. Portland. OR 97204

Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)

[11th Annual Native American Youth and Family Center Gala](#)

Date: November 14th

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Portland Art Museum, 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205

Oregon Public Health Association

[Place Matters Conference: Working together to create healthy communities](#)

Date: November 19th-21st

Time: 7 a.m. (Nov 19th)-12 p.m. (Nov 21st)

Location: Hilton Portland, 921 SW 6th Avenue, Portland, OR 97204

Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association

[2014 Health Care Interpreting Fall Training](#)

Date: October 5th - December 6th (one day a week)

Location: OHSU's School of Nursing- 3455 SW US Veterans Hospital Road, Portland, OR 97239

Health Equity in the News

Articles

Local

[In the hospital, a bad translation can destroy a life](#)

[Islanders find refuge but no paradise](#)

[How Beaverton is capitalizing on its diversity, inside and out](#)

[Molalla School Garden Outgrows Childhood Obesity](#)

[Do 95 percent of Oregonians now have health insurance coverage? Politifact Oregon](#)

National

[Kaiser Permanente Fresno named leader in LGBT health](#)

[Reverend Jesse Jackson and Rainbow PUSH Coalition Expose Lack of Diversity](#)

[Nation's TOP 25 Employee Resource Groups and Diversity Councils Honored Last Night at Washington D.C. Conference](#)

[Mapping the USA's Diversity from 1960-2060](#)

[Nearly \\$3 million awarded to battle health disparities](#)

Resources

African Health

[The African Immigrant and Refugee Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile](#)

[The Health of African Immigrants in the U.S.: Explaining the Immigrant Health Advantage](#)

Asian American/Pacific Islander Health

[The Asian Smokers' Quitline](#): A federally-funded treatment program is now available for your Asian-language speaking patients.

[Racial and Ethnic Differences in Mental Illness Stigma in California](#)

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](#)

Slavic Health

[The Slavic Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile](#)

Research

[What is Participatory Health Research?](#)

[IRB Case: Public health practice vs. research](#)

Career Moves - Job and Volunteer Opportunities

Job Opportunities

Oregon Health Authority/Department of Human Services Positions

[Mental Health Supervising Registered Nurse \(Bridges Program\)](#)

[Operations and Policy Analyst 4 \(ADA lead Coordinator\)](#)

[Operations and Policy Analyst 4 \(Policy Innovation Analyst\)](#)

[Principal Executive/Manager F \(Chief Information Security Manager\)](#)

External Positions

Special Advocates for Protected Oregonians- [Executive Director](#)

Native American Youth and Family Centers- [Transitions Project Placement Specialist](#)

Providence Health Services- Community Outreach Coordinator (Health in Motion)

University of Oregon- Health Promotion Specialist

Multnomah County- Community Health Specialist

Internship/Volunteer Opportunities

African American Health Coalition, Inc. - Volunteer Opportunities

The African American Health Coalition began as a group of volunteers committed to reducing racial health disparities in Portland, Oregon. We see the dedication put forth by our volunteers as one of the cornerstones of our organization. Our mission of being the healthiest African American community in the nation continues with your passionate support and vision. Your skills, talents and experience have an important role in AAHC's success.

International Center for Traditional Childbearing - Volunteer Opportunities

ICTC needs your help! We want to expand our efforts to reduce infant mortality, improve healthy birth outcomes and provide direct services to women and families throughout Oregon and abroad, but we need *you* to make it happen. Positions include: Camp Counselors, Office Assistant, Outreach and Promotion, Fund Development, Driver and Photographer, Videographer and Film Director. For more information contact ICTC via email volunteer@ictcmidwives.org or phone 503.460.9324

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