

## Values and Principles Work Group – Recommended Considerations for Board Discussion.

### Recommendation #1:

The board should fully endorse and adopt the Health Equity Committee (HEC) statement and pledge to complete all board work in full support of the goals of that statement, in the elimination of bias in decisions and in actions, and in rectifying past bias, as an absolute principle of universal health care.

#### *HEC Statement*

*Oregon will have established a health system that creates health equity when all people can reach their full health potential and well-being and are not disadvantaged by their race, ethnicity, language, disability, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class, intersections among these communities or identities, or other socially determined circumstances.*

- Achieving health equity requires the ongoing collaboration of all regions and sectors of the state, including tribal governments to address:
  - The equitable distribution or redistribution of resources and power; and
  - Recognizing, reconciling, and rectifying historical and contemporary injustices.

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/EI/Pages/HEC%20Plan%20Definitions.aspx>

### Recommendation #2

The Board should adopt the following four overarching principles and their subprinciples:

1. Maximize Health
2. Fair Distribution of Medical Resources
3. Minimize the financial hardship from medical bills on individuals and families.
4. Community Ownership and Governance

### Overarching Principles and Subprinciples

#### 1. Maximize Health

##### a. Individual Fulfillment.

- i. Individual Fulfillment means: Individual agency in healthcare decisions and satisfaction with the healthcare received.
- ii. Access to healthcare must not be blocked by external forces of bias, location, or financial resources

##### b. Population Measures - Community members should be engaged to decide health care measures and goals.

- i. The Board should identify measures being used by Oregon state agencies and health institutions.
- ii. Identified measures should be shared with the community and community engagement and feedback sessions should be used to identify health measures most important to the community

iii. All health measures and the work of all community engagement and feedback should support the Health Equity Commission statement.

c. **Community Action Against Contagion:** In the case of specifically identified community contagion, community, state and national interests to protect the population at large outweighs individual decision making for reaction to that contagion.

d. **Minimize Harms from Health Care**

## 2. Fair Distribution of Medical Resources

a. Defining fairness and how it is applied to distribution of care should be informed by the community itself, taking care to use a process that is inclusive and equitable.

b. Any definition should address, at a minimum, the following:

i. Fair to whom?

ii. Fair by effort expended on each individual?

iii. Fair by equal outcome for each individual regardless of effort?

iv. Fair by individual probability of benefit?

v. Fair by region?

vi. Do individual decisions that adversely affect health affect fairness?

## 3. Minimize Financial Hardship for Individuals and Families from Medical Costs

a. Spread out cost of significant illness and injury

b. Ability to pay should be considered in cost distribution

c. Reduce risk of high-cost events

d. Reduce Complexity and Improve Transparency. As harmful as individual cost can be, the stress of not knowing what you will be charged is a significant impediment to health and to seeking care.

e. Financial Stress impacts health and recovery. Stress induced from financial hardship due to medical costs is detrimental to physical and mental health.

## 4. Community Ownership and Governance

a. **Community ownership**

i. In any policy or program that will directly and intimately affect a community, that community should have voice in final decision making.

b. **Financial Stewardship**

i. Economic sustainability

ii. Balancing competing demands for community resources

iii. Fair distribution of cost

iv. Removal of inefficiency

**c. Principles of Good Governance**

- i. Transparency
- ii. Accountability
- iii. Representation by peers
- iv. Political sustainability
- v. Financial sustainability

**Work Group Considerations**

The Board should consider the following tools to ensure community feedback is honored and to define and operationalize fairness and equity in its work.

1. **Meaningful public participation:** In community engagement the Board should always seek to:
  - a. Be inclusive of all people
  - b. Provide the community details on the background and current thinking relating to a particular issue or project.
  - c. Present community members with alternatives and ask them to make a judgment as to the most attractive option for the community.
  - d. Consider community feedback as the guiding perspective in defining terms and decision making.
  
2. **Targeted Universalism**
  - a. Within a targeted universalism framework, universal goals are established for all groups concerned. The strategies developed to achieve those goals are targeted, based upon how different groups are situated within structures, culture, and across geographies to obtain the universal goal.