

OPHA Task Force

Legislative Concept: Declaring Racism is a Public Health Crisis

Purpose

- Declare racism as a public health crisis in Oregon.
 - Acknowledge Oregon's racist history and its current day impact on policies and systems that perpetuate institutional racism
 - Articulate investments and strategies needed to address health inequities among Oregonians of Color and Oregon Tribes:
1. Improve collection of race, ethnicity, language, and disability (REAL-D)¹ data
 - a. Expands the collection of REAL-D data to all state agencies, subcontractors and vendors as practicable.
 - b. Clarifies representation on advisory committees that informs updates to data collection standards are diverse.
 2. Develop a statewide culturally competent mobile health unit program that focuses on providing basic health, behavioral health, oral health, and connection to other wraparound services specifically for communities of color and tribes in Oregon.
 3. Oregon Advocacy Commission supports specific affinity groups by race with statewide membership to identify future strategies and investments needed to address institutional racism and health equity.
 4. Creates an oversight body in Oregon Health Authority to assess language access compliance for all health systems across the state and provide technical assistance to achieve compliance
 5. Legislative staff to conduct racial health equity analysis on all future legislation for health equity considerations, and report findings back to respective committees.

To date, more than 100 organizations have endorsed this LC
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¹ [OARs 943-070-0000 thru 943-070-007](#): These Oregon Administrative Rules establish uniform standards and practices for the collection of data on race, ethnicity, preferred spoken or signed and preferred written language, and disability status by the Oregon Health Authority and DHS.

6. Creates an Equity Coordinator for the Legislature to address and coordinate ADA and language accessibility barriers for better public participation in the legislative process. The Equity Coordinator will also form partnerships with diverse communities to develop a needs assessment and program efficacy plan. Community involvement will be supported with stipends. Also allocate resources to support these efforts. Without hearing from people with lived experience, the opportunity to address unintended consequences is lost. We will have more equitable policies, and ultimately more opportunities to address institutional racism when more people have the supports they need to be able to participate in the legislative process. Better policies supporting the health of *all* people will equate to increased health and wellness in communities when negative consequences are addressed prior to becoming law.