

John Santa MD MPH    March 4, 2025

Comment to Legacy/OHSU Transaction Community Advisory Board

My name is John Santa. I am a retired primary care physician and health administrator. I was on the Oregon Health Policy Board when OHA developed the current health equity definition and the HCMO concept. I have been trained, employed and taught at both Legacy and OHSU decades ago.

In the early 70s, as part of an urban renewal project, buildings that were the epicenter of the Portland African American community were razed to make way for an expansion of Emanuel Hospital. No expansion ever occurred on that property. Ten years ago, at the urging of the City of Portland, Legacy turned the property over for development. Read or listen to details about this story at: <https://www.opb.org/article/2025/02/28/portland-north-russell-street-housing-development/>. It is a story of profound historical inequity occurring over decades. Learn from history, don't repeat it.

Consistent with OHA's definition of health equity please recognize, reconcile and rectify historical and contemporary injustices related to Legacy and OHSU or their predecessors.

The final calculation and distribution of assets in the Legacy/OHSU transaction is key to the health equity evaluation of this transaction.

- 1) Does the calculation and distribution take into account all the patients needing hospital beds, specialty services and primary care into the future?
- 2) Does the distribution of the assets to a reconfigured Legacy Foundation recognize, reconcile and rectify historical and contemporary injustices?
- 3) How can the public have any certainty since Legacy/OHSU insists that all the information about this calculation and distribution be confidential even to the Community Review Board?

HCMO has separated the Legacy Foundation transaction from the Legacy/OHSU transaction, but Legacy/OHSU says both must be approved for either to move forward and threatens to end the acquisition if the transfer of resources to Legacy Foundation is not approved. HCMO has decided not to organize a Community Review Board regarding the Foundation transaction. HCMO claims health equity is a priority and yet this key health equity transaction will be evaluated in secret with no advice from the Community. Based on prior HCMO decisions the information deemed confidential will never be made public. Is this consistent with "recognize, rectify and reconcile?"

Legacy and OHSU have capable leadership representing them at the public meeting on March 5, 2025. I urge them to put the community and health equity first when it comes to the final step in this transaction.

I urge the Legacy/OHSU representatives to remove all the redactions in HCMO Notice Question 6 - Exhibit 1 and any other documents related to the calculation of final costs and distribution of assets.

If Legacy/OHSU insists on confidentiality I urge the Legacy/OHSU Community Advisory Board to advise on the health equity implications of the secret process Legacy/OHSU insists on for calculating and distributing remaining assets. This final calculation and distribution is part of the Legacy/OHSU transaction.

I urge HCMO to engage an independent health equity expert to review this calculation and distribution approach and report their conclusions to the public.

I urge the Legacy/OHSU Community Advisory Board to consider this calculation and distribution as the primary topic of a second public meeting. At the second public meeting consider the concerns raised by the Community First campaign and multiple health foundations. There is another solution for this part of the Legacy/OHSU transaction.

Remember: Consistent with OHA's definition of health equity, please recognize, reconcile and rectify historical and contemporary injustices related to Legacy and OHSU or their predecessors.