Health Care Interpreter Program

Enabling linguistically diverse communities to access quality and timely health care information
"The essence of global health equity is the idea that something so precious as health might be viewed as a right."

-Paul Farmer,
American Anthropologist and Physician

In honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th through October 15th), I would like to reflect on the movement toward health equity as it relates to the Latino community in Oregon.

In Oregon, over 12% of the population is of Hispanic origin. According to The Latino Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile, a report commissioned by the Coalition of Communities of Color & Portland State University in 2012, the Latino community in Multnomah County has tripled since 1990 and now accounts for 11% of our total population. This growth has brought a new cultural richness and international perspective to the larger community and is directly influencing health care reform in Oregon.

One of the initiatives on the agenda here at the Office of Equity and Inclusion is to ensure that individuals who speak limited English are able to access equitable health care services through quality health care interpretation.

The Oregon Health Care Interpreter (HCI) program supports HCI policy and professional development. Essentially, we are working to ensure that linguistically diverse communities are able to receive the highest level of timely and quality information regarding their health status and that language differences are no longer a barrier to accessing quality care.

Acting as a health care interpreter requires both professionalism and sensitivity in delivering potentially difficult information without knowing what is about to be communicated.

For a better understanding of the experience of Oregon's health care interpreters, read about Carmen Villa, who interprets for Spanish-speaking patients at the Salem Hospital.

I am proud of the initiatives and programs that the Office of Equity and inclusion is pushing forward, and the positive impact that these efforts have on the health care delivery system in Oregon. Thank you for your continued support in our mission to engage and align diverse community voices and the Oregon Health Authority to ensure the elimination of avoidable health gaps and promote optimal health in Oregon.

Warmest regards,

Tricia Tillman
Director, Office of Equity and Inclusion
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OHA and DHS News

Preferred Language Cards are now available
We now have preferred language cards available for use for community partners! Preferred Language Cards will empower our clients to request a qualified or certified health care interpreter in their preferred spoken language. Language card translations include: Spanish, Vietnamese, Swahili, Korean, Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Somali, and French (Russian is on the way). Contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion to request preferred language cards for your place of work, community partners or outreach events.

Health Care Interpreter training session announced
The Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association (OHCIA) will hold a training session on Sunday, Oct. 5th at Oregon Health Science University (OHSU). The session, which covers Anatomy and Physiology I, will run from 8 am-5 pm in Lecture Room SON144 at OHSU’s School of Nursing, 3455 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road, Portland, OR 97239.

It is designed by the OHCIA to meet the 60 hours of health care interpreting training required for qualification or certification by state law. Future upcoming sessions include Anatomy and Physiology II on Oct. 12, Medical Terminology I on Oct. 19, and Medical Terminology II on Oct. 26. Cost is $40 for each session.

Please go to the OHCIA website to register for any of its upcoming training sessions.

DELTA program now accepting applications
The Developing Equity Leadership through Training and Action (DELTA) program is accepting applications for its 2015 Cohort. DELTA is a statewide, comprehensive health equity and inclusion leadership program that strategically provides training, coaching and technical assistance to key health, community and policy leaders.

Download the application here. You can also visit the DELTA website. Application deadline is Friday, Oct. 31. Please contact Anastasia Sofranac with any questions: anastasia.sofranac@state.or.us or ph: 971-673-1333.

Health Equity in the News

Articles

Local
7 details about Multnomah County's $3 million Grant to Address Health Disparities for African Americans
Advocates: Stop using inmates as interpreters in Ore. prisons

National
Health Disparities Among South Asian Americans Increase
Churches Combat Health Disparities in Minorities through Outreach
Health care coverage reaches Latinos
Report: Difficulties Likely to Persist in Enrolling Asian and Pacific Islanders
Addressing Health Disparities in Rural Communities

HHS Awards $3.2 million to Help Support Minority Enrollment in Health Insurance Coverage

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**

- Administrative Specialist 1 (OVDRS Administrative Specialist)
- Human Services Specialist 1 (Human Services Specialist)
- Pharmacy Technician 2
- Operations and Policy Analyst 3 (Outreach and Communications Specialist)

**External Positions**

- The Lund Report- Freelance News Reporters
- Appraise Health Insights- Health Care Analyst
- Morrison Child and Family Services- Clinical Manager
- CCO Oregon- Communications Director

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@ictmidwives.org or phone 503.460.9324

**Community Events**

**Center for Intercultural Organizing's (CIO) Annual Gala**
**CAUSA's 2014 American Dreamer Awards**
*Date:* October 2nd  
*Time:* 6:00p.m.- 9:00 p.m.  
*Location:* Eliot Center - 1226 SW Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97201

**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

**Portland State University**
**Legacy of the Civil Rights Act of 1964: Past, Present and Future**
*Date:* October 6th  
*Time:* 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
*Location:* Portland State University, Smith Memorial Union Ballroom - 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97201

**Urban League of Portland**
**Urban League of Portland's 2014 Equal Opportunity Day Awards Dinner**
*Date:* October 7th  
*Time:* 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
*Location:* 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Portland, OR 97232

**Basic Rights Oregon**
**IGNITE: Basic Rights Oregon's Gala**
*Date:* October 10th  
*Time:* 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.  
*Location:* Portland Art Museum - 1219 SW Park Ave, Portland, OR 97205

**Oregon Latino Health Coalition**
**Health Care for All Children Kickoff**
*Date:* October 21st  
*Time:* 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
*Location:* Portland State University, The Native American Student Community - 710 SW Jackson St., Portland, OR 97201
Get Involved with the Office of Equity and Inclusion!

**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, contact Emily Wang by phone: 971-673-2307 or email: [Emily.L.Wang@state.or.us](mailto: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. The next meeting for the committee is scheduled for 10 a.m. - noon on **Monday, Nov. 10th**. For more information, contact Charniece Tisdale by phone: 971-673-1333 or email: [Charniece.Tisdale@state.or.us](mailto:Charniece.Tisdale@state.or.us).

**Health Care Interpreters Certification Program**
The Oregon Health Care Interpreter (HCI) Program oversees the [Oregon Health Care Interpreter Registry](http://www.healthcareinterpreters.org) 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](mailto:hci.program@state.or.us).

For Newsletter Submissions or Questions, please contact: [Alyssa.McClean@state.or.us](mailto:Alyssa.McClean@state.or.us)