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# *Community Driven Policy*

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Oregon Health Equity Alliance

# *Marilou Carrera*

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Based in Portland, Oregon, Marilou Carrera (she / they) is a health equity advocate and community health practitioner. Her experiences as a Filipina and Japanese person who immigrated to the U.S. as a child, as well as their time practicing as a registered nurse, advocating for communities of color, and promoting public health have long persuaded her of the importance and imperative of sharing stories to influence policy. Marilou currently manages the community health equity efforts of the Oregon Health Equity Alliance.



Reproductive Health Equity Act:  
Organizing  
Legislation  
Implementation

# *Why reproductive health equity?*

Access to reproductive health care is critical for the health and economic security of all Oregonians. That's why everyone in Oregon, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance, needs access to the full range of reproductive health services.

# *Who worked on this?*

## Pro-Choice Coalition of Oregon Steering Committee:

ACLU of Oregon | Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon |  
Family Forward Oregon | NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon | Oregon  
Latino Health Coalition | Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon |  
Western States Center

Reproductive  
Health Equity  
NOW!



CAMPAIGN  
**CENTERING**

Communities of Color

# Reproductive Health Equity Act of 2017

Establishes coverage for the full range of reproductive health care, including family planning, abortion and postpartum care, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance

#ReproHealthEquityNow





# OHEA

## Oregon Health Equity Alliance

RHEA passed in 2017 and has been considered the most progressive reproductive health legislation in the nation.

OHEA's prioritizes and centers the wisdom of communities of color and those communities typically not visible in the legislative process. RHEA was a key component of OHEA's legislative agenda in 2017, giving opportunity for communities not connected with NARAL and Planned Parenthood to access legislators on these important issues.



# Organizing with Communities: We Are BRAVE

Building Reproductive  
Autonomy & Voices for  
Equity

This matters to our  
communities of color

We are stronger when  
we organize

Those most affected by  
exclusion and oppression  
carry wisdom and  
expertise

# CULTURAL WORK

Changing hearts and minds through the power of storytelling



# POLICY ADVOCACY

- Comprehensive Womens Health 2015
- Reproductive Health Equity Act 2017
- Multnomah County Proclamation 2017

# WE ARE **BRAVE**

Race, money, and  
abortion access

A Movement Building  
Curriculum



## Political Education

### RJ TOOLKIT

Modules developed by organizers, reviewed by coalition leaders, and launched in 2014 as a tool to continue building the reproductive justice movement.

# *RHEA*

## *Implementation*

Implementation largely the work of the State Reproductive Health program as part of the Public Health Division



### Reproductive and Sexual Health

Reproductive and sexual health are important to our overall health.

*Who is  
involved  
now?*

DIFFERENT PARTNERS

- State partners
- Service providers
- Reproductive  
Health
- Public Health

# *Implementation*

## COMPONENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS



1

Communications messaging to ensure people (providers and patients) understand what coverage looks like

2

Creation of toolkit for longer-term communications, culturally appropriate, translated

3

Specific considerations for immigrants, refugees, and people without documentation

# *New & Ongoing Challenges*

- Title X Funding
- Public Charge
- Anti-Immigrant Sentiment from the Federal Administration
- Discrimination against transgender and non-binary people





*Thank you!*

