



## Pursuing Equity

October 16, 2015

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### Implementing Strategic State-Wide Engagement

As we approach our [annual meeting](#), I want to acknowledge the work of the Oregon Health Authority and the Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) over the past year on continuing to implement strategic state-wide engagement. In addition to our work with [Regional Health Equity Coalitions](#), here are some of the ways we are promoting health equity, diversity and inclusion in both urban and rural communities of Oregon:



Leann Johnson Director,  
Office of Equity and  
Inclusion

Currently, [Behavioral Health Town Hall Meetings](#) provide an opportunity for our agency Director, Lynne Saxton, and others to hear from adolescents, adults, and families who are working to access mental health treatment in Oregon.

Over the summer, [House Bill 3100](#) was passed to implement recommendations made by the Task Force on the Future of Public Health Services. The Public Health Division, with the help of OEI, the Health Equity Policy Committee and other stakeholders, is now on a path to modernize Oregon's public health system so that it can more proactively meet the needs of the people of Oregon. We continue to work diligently to ensure that equity is a key element in the restructuring process. Learn more about Public Health Modernization [here](#).

Earlier this year, the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services passed a [joint policy](#) to better ensure equitable access to programs and services for ethnically and linguistically diverse populations. Learn more about the new policy in this month's newsletter spotlight.

We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting this Thursday, October 22nd to celebrate these accomplishments and more!

Warmly,

Leann Johnson

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## OEI Spotlight: Alternate Formats and Language Access Services

The Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Human Services passed a joint Alternate Formats and Language Access Services Policy requiring the provision of interpretation, translation, and alternate formats for non-English speakers, those with limited English proficiency, blind, Deaf and hearing-impaired persons.

Implementation elements of the Alternate Formats and Language Access Services Policy include:

- Establishing Bilingual Proficiency Standards for OHA employees who use their bilingual or American Sign Language Skills as part of their job.
- Contracting for document translation, and providing quality assurance.
- Assuring Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance with individual (Public) Civil Rights Procedures.
- Ensuring alternate format and multi-language signage at facilities, in appropriate locations
- Working with personnel to provide staff training on Civil Rights, policy compliance, alternate format publications, and working with interpreters.
- Meeting ADA requirements for fonts and alternate formats.
- Contracting with language service providers and translators for specific specialties.

This policy is essential to ensuring equitable access to high quality health and health care services among ethnically and linguistically diverse populations. You can read through the document on our [website](#).

## OEI News and Updates

### 2015 OEI Annual Meeting

Join us to hear about our shared accomplishments and honor the people who have contributed significant time and talents to promote equity and inclusion. Come celebrate, share and help us build capacity to improve health outcomes and quality in Oregon.

**Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2015

**Time:** 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (registration begins at 4:00 pm)

**Location:** Oregon Convention Center (Portland Ballroom) - 777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd  
Portland, OR 97232

**Please [RSVP](#)**

**For more information:** email [Rebecca.A.Naga@state.or.us](mailto:Rebecca.A.Naga@state.or.us) or call 971-673-1283

## OEI News and Updates Continued

### **Applications Due: Developing Equity Leadership through Training and Action (DELTA) 2016 Cohort**

Time is running out to apply for the 2016 DELTA cohort! Submit your application no later than **October 31st** to be considered. Learn more about the DELTA program [here](#).

**Apply today!**

### **Registration Closed: 2015 OEI Health Equity Conference "Pathways to Health Equity: Success Means Getting There Together"**

The Oregon Health Authority Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) is hosting our first state-wide conference that focuses exclusively on the implementation of health equity, diversity and inclusion policies and strategic equity initiatives throughout Oregon's health system.

**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2015

**Time:** 11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Registration will begin at 10:00 am

**Location:** Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97232

**Registration is now closed:** Visit the [registration website](#) if you would like to be placed on a wait list

**Draft Agenda**

If you have questions, please contact OEI Training Coordinator, [Charniece.Tisdale@state.or.us](mailto:Charniece.Tisdale@state.or.us).

### **OEI Sponsorships Program: New application now available**

Through our Sponsorships Program, we support activities that build relationships between community-based organizations and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to promote health equity, diversity and inclusion.

Eligible applicants may receive up to \$2,000 in sponsorship for activities that provide opportunities for OHA to participate or attend. Organizations must have 501c3 status to apply.

Learn more about our Sponsorships Program the [OEI website](#).

## Community Events

### **Oregon Health Care Interpreters Association (OHCIA)**

#### **OHCIA Conference 2015**

**Date:** Saturday, October 17, 2015

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** OHSU Collaborative Life Sciences Building - 2730 SW Moody Avenue, Portland, OR 97201

## Community Events Continued

### L'Arche Portland

#### Annual Benefit Celebration

**Date:** Saturday, October 17, 2015

**Time:** 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** University of Portland - 5000 N Willamette Boulevard, Portland, OR 97203

### African American Health Coalition

#### 20th Annual Wellness Village

**Date:** Saturday, October 17, 2015

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Ambridge Center - 1333 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Portland, OR 97232

### Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)

#### A Night for Networking

**Date:** Wednesday, October 28, 2015

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Location:** OHSU Collaborative Life Sciences Building - 2730 SW Moody Avenue, Portland, OR 97201

### Basic Rights Oregon

#### Ignite: Basic Rights Oregon Gala

**Date:** Friday, October 30, 2015

**Time:** 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

**Location:** Portland Art Museum - 1219 SW Park Avenue, Portland, OR 97205

### Annual Binational Health Week 2015

**Date:** October 1-31, 2015

**Location:** Various

### American Lung Association

#### Lung Force Expo

**Date:** November 13, 2015

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Monarch Hotel and Conference Center - 12566 SE 93rd Avenue, Clackamas, OR 97015

## Job Postings

### External Positions

Cascadia Behavioral Health - Program Supervisor II, QMHP

Coalition of Community Health Clinics - Program Manager

Oregon State University - Violence Prevention Assistant

AmeriCorps VISTA - Nutrition Coordinator

## Job Postings Continued

### Internal Positions

[Teaching Assistant - Substitute \(Oregon School for the Deaf\)](#)

[Administrative Specialist 1 - OSPHD Administrative Specialist](#)

[Operations and Policy Analyst 2 \(Business Analyst\)](#)

## Community Partner Resources

### [A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the West](#)

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) and statewide Asian and Pacific Islander organizational partners join with the national civil rights group Asian Americans Advancing Justice, to release a new report about the growing Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) populations in the Western United States, including in Oregon.

### [National Equity Atlas](#)

The National Equity Atlas is a first-of-its-kind data and policy tool for community leaders & policymakers working to build an equitable, resilient & prosperous economy. The Atlas provides data on demographic change, racial inclusion, and the economic benefits of equity. It was developed by Policy Link & University of Southern California Program (USC) for Environmental and Regional Equity (PERE).

### [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Plan to Address Health Equity](#)

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH), unveiled the first CMS plan to address health equity in Medicare. The CMS Equity Plan for Improving Quality in Medicare (CMS Equity Plan for Medicare) is an action-oriented plan that focuses on six priority areas and aims to reduce health disparities in four years.

Priorities include:

- **Priority 1:** Expand the Collection, Reporting, and Analysis of Standardized Data
- **Priority 2:** Evaluate Disparities Impacts and Integrate Equity Solutions Across CMS Programs
- **Priority 3:** Develop and Disseminate Promising Approaches to Reduce Health Disparities
- **Priority 4:** Increase the Ability of the Health Care Workforce to Meet the Needs of Vulnerable Populations
- **Priority 5:** Improve Communication and Language Access for Individuals with Limited English Proficiency and Persons with Disabilities
- **Priority 6:** Increase Physical Accessibility of Health Care Facilities

### [The Opportunity Agenda: Flash Card Toolkit](#)

This toolkit contains key messages for talking about race, equity, inclusion, economic opportunity and other important issues. The cards include core messages and talking points, as well as helpful hints for making sure your message is effective.

### [We Prepare Everyday](#)

A 2-minute video brought to you by the Ready Campaign and Ad Council showing people with disabilities taking charge to prepare themselves and their families for emergencies. The Public Service Announcement emphasizes the Ready Campaign's four building blocks of preparedness - Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit and Get Involved.

## Get Involved with OEI!

### **Join the Traditional Health Workers (THW) Commission**

The THW Commission promotes the traditional health workforce in Oregon's Health Care Delivery System to achieve Oregon's Triple Aim of better health, better care, and lower costs. The Commission advises and makes recommendations to the OHA, with the intent to ensure the THW program is responsive to consumer and community health needs, while delivering high quality and culturally competent care. For more information or to apply, visit the [THW Commission webpage](#).

### **Participate in the Health Equity Policy Committee (HEPC)**

HEPC 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. For more information, visit the [HEPC webpage](#).

### **Join the Health Equity Researchers of Oregon (HERO)**

HERO is a network of health equity researchers from across the state, working together to inform policy and community-based efforts to improve health in Oregon for culturally diverse communities, while ensuring that policy agendas and community members inform Oregon's research agenda. For more information, visit the [HERO webpage](#).

### **Connect with us!**

**To learn more about OEI or send newsletter submissions,  
please email Alyssa McClean at [Alyssa.McClean@state.or.us](mailto:Alyssa.McClean@state.or.us).**