

**Transcript of the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Deborah Kafoury called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. with Commissioners Jules Bailey, Loretta Smith present. Vice-Chair Diane McKeel arrived at 10:14 a.m. and was excused at 10:27 a.m. Commissioner Judy Shiprack was excused.

Also attending were Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney, and Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk.

[THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS THE BYPRODUCT OF THE CLOSED CAPTIONING OF THIS PROGRAM. THE TEXT HAS NOT BEEN PROOFREAD, AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A FINAL TRANSCRIPT.]

>> Chair Kafoury: I THINK WE'RE READY TO GET STARTED IF OUR SPEAKERS COULD COME FORWARD.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> Chair Kafoury: GOOD MORNING.

>> BEN DUNCAN. I THINK WE'RE WAITING FOR ONE MORE PERSON. I'M SPEAK SLOWLY AND PONTIFICATE A LITTLE BIT.

>> WE DO HAVE TWO -- IF WE COULD GET STARTED, THAT WOULD BE GREAT. WHOEVER IS LATE CAN BE FILLED IN.

>> SPECIAL WELCOME TO COMMISSIONER BAILEY. I ALSO JUST WANT TO TAKE A BRIEF MOMENT TO SEND THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO THOSE IMPACTED BY EVENTS AT REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL THIS MORNING. I BELIEVE ALL OF US ARE IMPACTED WHEN VIOLENCE HAPPENS IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND SEND THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED. IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO WELCOME MY GUEST TODAY FOR THE REPORTS. THESE REPORTS HAVE PROVIDED US OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY THE BURDEN OF -- A SET OF -- CREATE A VISION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN OUR COMMUNITIES. THE DATA IS DISHEARTENING, WE APPROACH THE CHALLENGE WITH OPTIMISTIC. INEQUITIES UNJUST, UNFAIR -- STRATEGIES THAT -- POLICIES GUIDED BY EQUITY CAN MOVE US TOWARDS A MULTNOMAH COUNTY WHERE THESE VAST DIFFERENCES IN EXPERIENCES AND OPPORTUNITIES NO LONGER EXIST. MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME OUR GUESTS.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> GOOD MORNING. GOOD MORNING CHAIR AND BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. THANK YOU FOR HAVING US HERE PRESENTING THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY REPORT. I WORK AT THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITY COMMISSION -- I REPRESENT THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY. 2005 I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES -- I FELT INVISIBLE AS A SLAVIC COMMUNITY MEMBER, BUT WE HAVE AROUND 150,000 SLAVIC COMMUNITY MEMBERS HERE. BECAUSE OF MY WORK AT IRCO, I SLOWLY LEARNED ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM. AND NOW I UNDERSTAND IT IS IMPORTANT TO ADVOCATE FOR THE COMMUNITY NEEDS. THIS WAY, WE ARE HERE -- THAT'S WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY. CONCERN ABOUT THE -- PARENTS CONCERN AND DON'T KNOW THEIR RIGHTS, DON'T KNOW HOW TO PROTECT INTEGRITY AND CULTURE OF THEIR FAMILY. COMMUNITY CONCERN ABOUT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, BECAUSE OF THEIR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE BARRIERS. THIS -- JUST A COUPLE OF EXAMPLES OF IMPORTANT COMMUNITY ISSUE. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO US.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> FOR ONE POINT OF PROCEDURE, THE CHAIR HAS STEPPED OUT. WE HAVE AN ONGOING SITUATION IN TROUTDALE. SHE MAY HAVE TO STEP OUT AND COME BACK IN. IT DOESN'T REFLECT ON YOUR PRESENTATION, BUT KNOW THAT SHE HAS THAT BUSINESS TO I ATTEND TO.

>> THANK YOU. MY NAME IS ANN CURRY STEVENS, FACULTY IN THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK AND I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO LAND HERE AT THE COUNTY. AND WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COALITION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR TO CONDUCT RESEARCH WORK ON RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE REGION. AND THIS IS OUR FINAL REPORT TO -- FINAL RESEARCH RELEASE ON THE NATURE OF DISPARITIES AND OUR TIME THIS MORNING IS GOING TO BE SPENT TRACKING BACK A LITTLE BIT FOR COMMISSIONER BAILEY TO HELP BRING YOU UP TO SPEED ON THE NATURE OF THIS WORK AND HOW FAR IT HAS MOVED OVER THE LAST STRETCH OF YEARS AND TO DIG INTO THE SPECIFICS OF THE FINDINGS TO FLAG SOME OF THE MOST URGENT CONCERNS AND PASS RECOMMENDATIONS OVER TO NINA.

>> THANK YOU. I WANT TO APOLOGIZE QUICKLY FOR HAVING TO STEP AWAY.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

>> THANK YOU. THE COALITION BEGAN BACK IN 2002, AND HAS A MANDATE TO SERVE AND ADDRESS THE ISSUES RELATED TO INEQUITIES IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND TO PRESS TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AND ALSO RAISE DATA AND RESEARCH RELATED TO SOME OF THE STRUGGLES AND TO BUILD POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS. THIS WORK HAS BEEN -- IT COVERS SIX DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN THE REGION. THE ORIGINS OF THIS RESEARCH BEGAN ABOUT SEVEN YEARS AGO WHEN THE CONTEXT FOR OUR LEADERS OF COLOR, WHEN THEY AIM TO TALK TO FOLKS ABOUT POLICY AND TO JOIN POLICY TABLES WAS THAT THERE WAS A

REAL INVISIBILITY FACING THE COMMUNITIES. THERE WAS A SENSE OF SKEPTICISM AROUND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ISSUES AND MANY MEETINGS WERE CHARACTERIZED BY OUR LEADERS NEEDING TO SAY OUR - WE NEED TO BE AT THIS TABLE. AND THIS ISSUE IS -- IS PRESSING FOR OUR COMMUNITY. SO, THERE WAS A REAL NEED TO PUT A RESEARCH AND AN EVIDENCE-BASED UNDER THE NEEDS AND THAT IS WHAT THE SERIES OF RESEARCH REPORTS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ADVANCE. THE WORK HAS BEEN FUNDED IN PART BY THE COUNTY OFFICE. IN PART, AS WELL, BY THE CITY AND A SERIES OF FOUNDATIONS BY PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY AND BY ABUNDANCE DONATED TIME BY COALITION MEMBERS. EACH OF WHOM REPRESENT CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICE PROVIDERS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION. IT IS A PROJECT THAT HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT. OUR TOTAL EXPENDITURES IN THIS WORK OVER THE -- OVER THE SIX YEARS HAS BEEN ABOUT A HALF A MILLION, AND WE HAVE ENDED UP PUBLISHING SEVEN RESEARCH REPORTS. THE PARTNERSHIP EMERGED WHEN THE COALITION APPROACHED US AT PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY TO SAY CAN YOU PLEASE DO THIS WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH US? THEY CAME TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK. IT WAS A GOOD FIT FOR THE UNIVERSITY, BUT ALSO FOR THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, WHICH HAS A MANDATE AS MEETING THE NEEDS OF UNDERSERVED AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL BEING AMONGST THEM. IT HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL FIT. THE REPORTS IN TOTAL HAVE COVERED 28 DIFFERENT SYSTEMS AND INSTITUTIONS. AND IT -- THEY ARE UNIQUE AMONGST OUR WORK. THERE -- THEY ARE A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESEARCH-BASED FACING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR HERE. AS YOU CAN SEE IN THIS REACH, WE REACHED EVERYTHING FROM DATA ON THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, BANKRUPTCY, ACCESS TO FOOD BANKS, TO POVERTY, WEALTH, HOMELESSNESS. THE REACH HAS BEEN VERY BROAD. IN THE SLIDE IN FRONT OF YOU, YOU CAN SEE IN ARE ONLY EIGHT DOMAINS WHERE THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY. SO, THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT HAS BEEN DEEPLY CHALLENGED BECAUSE IN CONVENTIONAL DATA SPACES, THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY COUNTS AS WHITE AND SO IT DISAPPEARS INTO THAT POPULATION. AND, SO, WITH THAT AS A -- AS A QUICK OVERVIEW, I WILL PASS THINGS TO MR. --

>> GOOD MORNING, MADAM CHAIR AND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. ON BEHALF OF THE COALITION, I'M GRATEFUL TO BE WITH YOU THIS MORNING. AND THIS IS ONE OF THE REPORT THAT YOU HAVE FUNDED REGIONALLY WITH THE -- WITH THE OVERALL RESEARCH PROJECT, AND WHICH IS REALLY GRATEFUL AT THIS POINT IN TIME, WITH -- THE PORTLAND STATE, YOU KNOW, COLLABORATION WITH THE CCC, COALITION OF THE COMMUNITY OF COLORS WORK, THIS IS REALLY THE LAST, SPECIFIC REPORT THAT WE WILL BE REPORTING TO YOU AND, SO, BEING ONE OF THE REGIONAL COALITION MEMBERS AND THE IMMEDIATE PAST COCHAIR WHO HAVE REALLY HELPED GETTING THIS RESEARCH PROJECT STARTED, I AM SO GRATEFUL THAT TODAY IT IS ONE OF THE PRODUCTS OR THE END RESULT THAT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL OF THESE YEARS, TO REALLY FIND OUT HOW THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY, TO IS, SOMEWHAT WE'RE HOPING EVEN

THOUGH THEY'RE ONE OF THE COMMUNITY OF COLOR, THAT WHO MOST RECENTLY -- IN OUR STATE. IF YOU LOOK AT IT DEEPER, SLAVIC COMMUNITY AT SOME POINT IN LOOKING AT THE INTEGRATION PROCESS, THEY HAVE AN EASIER TIME, BUT NOT SO IF YOU LOOK AT IT DEEPER AND WE -- HOPING THAT THIS RESEARCH FINDING WOULD ALSO BE VERY INSTRUMENTAL TO THE COALITION OF COMMUNITY OF COLOR, AND AT THE SAME TIME IT IS ALSO POINT OUT WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR COMMUNITY EXPERIENCING THE INTEGRATION PROCESS IN OUR COUNTY, IN OUR CITY, IN OUR STATE, BECAUSE AS FORMER REFUGEE, OUR EXPERIENCE WAS AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR ARRIVAL IN THIS FREE NATION, IN THIS FREE COUNTRY, WE THOUGHT WE GOT IT MADE, RIGHT? AS SOON AS WE -- WE DON'T HEAR A GUN SOUND, WE DON'T WORRY ABOUT BEING -- FEAR OF PERSECUTION, YET WE HAVE BEEN PROUD FOR A MOMENT, BUT, YET, WE HAVE FOUND OUT TO TRULY MAKE IT IN THIS NEW HOMELAND, WHICH IS SOMETIMES CALLED THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES, AND THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY, BUT SOMETIMES IT'S VERY TOUGH TO GET OURSELVES INTO THE AMERICAN DREAMS. WE'RE JUST SO PROUD TO SHARE WITH YOU THE OUTCOMES AND GET STARTED, AND, SO, MY, COUPLE OF CENTS OUT THERE, BEGINNING OF THIS REPORT, IS THAT ON BEHALF OF THE COALITION, WE WANTED TO EXTEND OUR, YOU KNOW, APPRECIATION TO YOU AS CONTINUATION TO PROVIDE STRONG LEADERSHIP TO ALL COMMUNITY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I THANK YOU FOR THAT OPPORTUNITY. THANK YOU. I WILL TURN IT BACK TO ANN.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH. OUR FIRST RELEASE CAME OUT IN 2010, AND IT WAS A COMPOSITE OF WHAT WAS FACING COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AS A WHOLE. AT THAT POINT IN TIME, THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT BOTH MEDIA ATTENTION, POLICY ATTENTION, AND LEADERSHIP ATTENTION, BOTH AT ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL LEVELS TO THE ISSUES FACING OUR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. THERE IS JUST A SERIES OF HEADLINES THAT SHOW UP -- THAT SHOW UP IN THE VISUAL IN FRONT OF YOU. SIGNIFICANT AWARENESS, SIGNIFICANT INTEREST, AND SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS BEING RAISED ABOUT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO DO IN TERMS OF HOW TO MOVE FORWARD. SINCE THAT TIME, WE HAVE RELEASED SIX REPORTS, NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, LATINO, ASIAN -- AFRICAN-AMERICAN -- WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE WITH YOU THE RESULTS OF OUR RESEARCH WITH THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY. TO BEGIN, I WANT TO FLAG THE BROADER POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS, AND THE COMPOSITE TOTALS OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND THE WHITE COMMUNITY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I WANT TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO, THIS COMMUNITY WAS 85% WHITE AND TODAY IT IS JUST OVER 70% WHITE. SO, THIS IS A RAPIDLY DIVERSIFYING AREA. SEEN IN A VERY ACCENTUATED WAY IN THE NEXT SLIDE OF OUR STUDENT POPULATION. TYPICALLY OUR UNDER 18 POPULATION IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, AND THAT COMMUNITY HAS GONE FROM 70% WHITE, A MERE 10 YEARS AGO, TO TODAY BEING 53% WHITE. THIS IS WHERE THE DIVERSITY IS RAPIDLY AT THE FRONT END OF THE SYSTEM CHANGE WORK, AND AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, OUR SCHOOL BOARDS ARE PAYING SERIOUS ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND -- THE ABOVE CHART, WHEN WE ADD THE

APPROXIMATELY 5,000 SLAVIC YOUTH TO THESE FIGURES, AND SUBTRACT THAT 5,000 FROM THE WHITE COMMUNITY, WE END UP WITH VERY DEFINITELY A MAJORITY CULTURE BEING KIDS OF COLOR IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS. THIS IS A FORESHADOWING OF THE DYNAMICS THAT WILL SHOW UP IN THE ADULT POPULATION, BUT IT IS VERY PRONOUNCED FOR OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN AND NEEDS TO BE A SPECIFIC, EXPLICIT, URGENT ISSUE FLAGGED FOR OUR CHILDREN. SLAVIC COMMUNITY ARRIVED HERE PRIMARILY AS RELIGIOUS REFUGEES FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. COUNTRIES IN THE MAP OF THE WORLD IN THIS REGION ARE FLAGGED HERE. THE KINDS OF DISCRIMINATION AND CHALLENGES FACING MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN PRONOUNCED. THERE HAVE BEEN THREE MAJOR WAVES OF HISTORIC ARRIVALS OF THE SOVIET COMMUNITY HERE, AND WITH A SIGNIFICANT RISE ESPECIALLY IN THIS AREA AT THE END OF THE 1980s, WHEN RELIGIOUS REFUGEES FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION WERE RECOGNIZED IN THE U.S. AND THE KINDS OF BACKGROUND FACING THAT COMMUNITY ARE PRONOUNCED. YOU WILL SEE THOSE IF YOU READ THE HISTORY SECTION AND THE REPORT ITSELF. SIGNIFICANT LEVELS OF PERSECUTION, DENIAL OF ACCESS TO DECENT JOBS. HIGH LEVELS OF VIOLENCE, AND A NEED TO STAY UNDERGROUND IN MOST CIRCLES OF LIFE. HERE THE COMMUNITY IS RAPIDLY DIVERSIFYING AND RAPIDLY ESTABLISHING A STRONG SLAVIC PRESENCE. THIS IS THE LARGEST IMMIGRANT GROUP AFTER THE LATINO COMMUNITY IN THIS REGION. IT IS THE MOST COMMON LANGUAGE AFTER -- RUSSIAN IS THE MOST COMMON LANGUAGE AFTER ENGLISH AND SPANISH. GEOGRAPHICALLY THE COMMUNITY IS DISBURSED IN THE REGION, AND HAS BEEN CHALLENGED BY THE ABSENCE OF STRONG COMMUNITY HUBS, SORT OF COMMUNITY CENTERS WHICH WOULD REALLY SERVE TO CONSOLIDATE AND TO BUILD AN IDENTITY FOR THE COMMUNITY. BACK A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, MAYOR POTTER REFERRED TO THE COMMUNITY AS BEING A -- THE SLEEPING COMMUNITY, AND TODAY WE THINK ABOUT FIVE YEARS LATER THIS IS AN EMERGING COMMUNITY WHOSE VOICE AND LEADERSHIP IS BEGINNING TO GAIN VISIBILITY. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IS BEING DEVELOPED PRIMARILY THROUGH THE WORK OF IRCO AND THE SLAVIC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. WE'RE GLAD TO SEE THAT AND WANT TO SEE THOSE LEADERS ESTABLISH AND BE INVITED INTO VARIOUS POLICY CIRCLES.

>> CHAIR KAFOURY, MAY I INTERRUPT. I HAVE TO EXCUSE MYSELF. YOU ARE ALL AWARE WE HAVE AN ACTIVE SHOOTER SITUATION OUT AT REYNOLDS HIGH SCHOOL THIS MORNING AND I NEED TO GO TO EAST COUNTY. SO --

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER McKEEL, AND PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO SUPPORT YOU.

>> THE CHART SHOWS FOR US THE PERCENTAGE OF REFUGEES COMING IN THE U.S. OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS, AND SHOWS THAT THE PORTION OF THE SLAVIC -- THE PORTION OF THAT BODY WHICH IS SLAVIC HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DROPPED OFF. WHILE THERE IS A HIGH, VERY HIGH IMMIGRANT LEVELS, 1988 TO 1998, THAT LEVEL HAS BEEN DIMINISHING OVER TIME. THAT SAID, THE COMMUNITY IS GROWING RAPIDLY AT THE SAME TIME BECAUSE OF THE

HIGH FERTILITY RATE. AND YOU SEE THE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR FERTILITY RATES IN THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY IS OUR FASTEST GROWING COMMUNITY OF COLOR ON THE BASIS OF WOMEN GIVING BIRTH. THE SIZE OF THE COMMUNITY IS A LITTLE BIT OF A CHALLENGE TO DISCERN PARTIALLY BECAUSE THE CONSENSUS IN 2010 -- DIDN'T ASK THE SUBSEQUENT DETAILS OF ANCESTRY OR LANGUAGE SPOKEN, WHICH USED TO GIVE US A BETTER COUNT OF THE COMMUNITY SIZE. AND SO WE NEEDED TO -- IT IS ALSO A COMMUNITY THAT HAS BEEN RETICENT TO SURFACE TO THE ATTENTION OF STATE EMPLOYEES. AND, SO, THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT IS UNDERCOUNTED SIGNIFICANTLY. YOU HAVE HEARD OF THIS ISSUE IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT -- A NUMBER OF OUR REPORTS. THIS COMMUNITY WE ESTIMATE IS ABOUT 30% UNACCOUNTED. THIS IS A FACTOR OF BOTH LITERACY, EDUCATION, POVERTY, MOVING, NOT HAVING A PHONE, BUT IT IS ALSO A FACTOR -- ALSO A FACTOR IS THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS NOT WANTING TO SAY YES, I'M HERE. AND, YES, THIS IS INFORMATION ABOUT ME. SO, THE POPULATION WE ESTIMATE IS OVER 22,000 IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, AND ABOUT 3% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION. HERE IS THE DATA ON THE SIZE OF THAT COMMUNITY. TAKING US UP TO 22,000 IS OUR ESTIMATE OF THE UNDERCOUNT BY 2011. SO, THE KEY FINDINGS OF OUR WORK IS ONE THIS DYNAMIC WHERE THE COMMUNITY AND CONVENTIONAL DATA BASES IS COUNTED AS WHITE. AND, SO, IN THE EARLIER SLIDE, YOU SAW THAT THE COMMUNITY -- WE ONLY HAVE DATA ON EIGHT OF THE 28 SYSTEMS WE TYPICALLY REPORT ON. IN MOST AREAS, WE DON'T KNOW HOW THEY FAIR. IN THE AREAS WHERE WE DO KNOW HOW THEY'RE FAIRING, THEY'RE FACING HUGE CHALLENGES AND WE WOULD SUSPECT THAT THOSE CHALLENGES FOLLOW OVER TO THE COMMUNITIES THAT WE DON'T HAVE DATA ON SO FAR. BECOMING VISIBLE IS A HIGH PRIORITY. IT IS ALSO A COMMUNITY THAT HAS SIMILAR DISPARITIES WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. SO, THIS IS A -- THE QUESTION OF THIS COMMUNITY APPEARING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHITENESS AND WHITE IDENTITY IS NOT SHOWING UP IN THE DATA THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT IT. IT IS A COMMUNITY THAT STRUGGLED TO GAIN A TOE HOLD IN THE REGION ECONOMICALLY, EDUCATIONALLY AND BY OCCUPATION AS WELL. ONE OF THE MOST URGENT ISSUES THE FACT THAT THIS COMMUNITY HAS LARGELY BEEN DECIMATED ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY, AS A RESULT OF THIS RECESSION. I WILL CALL ATTENTION TO THESE DYNAMICS. THE CHANGE OF THE COMMUNITY'S EXPERIENCE FROM 2008, TO THE MOST RECENT DATA COLLECTION IN 2011 IS STARK AND STARTLING. THAT SAID, MANY OF OUR YOUNG LEADERS -- WE WERE ABLE TO SURVEY THE SLAVIC YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATE IN A LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, TREMENDOUSLY OPTIMISTIC, FULL OF FIRE AND BELIEF THAT THEY CAN MANIFEST A MUCH BRIGHTER FUTURE. I'VE MENTIONED ALREADY THAT THE COMMUNITY IS DESIGNATED WHITE. THERE IS -- I JUST WANTED TO DRAW TO YOUR ATTENTION HOUSE BILL 2134, PASSED IN 2013, STATE LEGISLATURE, AND THERE ARE, IN THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY IS GOING TO BE RECOGNIZED IN LEGISLATION AND A MANDATORY DATA COLLECTION FOR OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND EVERYONE THEY CONTRACT AND SUBCONTRACT WITH. SO, AT THE FRONT END IS THE LEGISLATION PUSHING FOR THESE CHANGES. WE'RE HOPING THAT ONE, THE

REACH OF THIS LEGISLATION EXTENDS IN THE COMING YEAR, BUT ALSO THAT DATA SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS VOLUNTARILY INCLUDE THOSE SAME KINDS OF METRICS. THE FINDINGS BRIEFLY IN TERMS OF SOME OF THE ECONOMIC ISSUES WE'RE FINDING IS THAT OF THE COMMUNITIES OF THE -- OF THE SUB-CATEGORIES WE LOOKED AT, THE BEST SITUATION WAS \$5,000 LESS A YEAR IN INCOME. AND THE POVERTY RATES WERE ABOUT DOUBLE IN THE -- IN THE AREA OF CHILD POVERTY. THE SAME DYNAMIC AS WE HAVE SEEN IN OTHER REPORTS THAT THE LOCAL SITUATION IS MUCH WORSE THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGES. AND LEADING TO A SIMILAR KINDS OF CONCLUSION THAT WE REACHED IN THE 2010 FIRST REPORT WHERE WE TALKED ABOUT MULTNOMAH COUNTY AS HAVING A SPECIFICALLY TOXIC IMPACT ON MOST OF OUR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. HERE IS THE PROFILE OF THOSE INCOME DATA. LOOKING AT MARRIED COUPLE FAMILIES EARNING CLOSE TO HALF OR A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF, AND THE NARROWEST INCOME GAP BEING IN THE AREA OF HOUSEHOLDS, WHICH IS TYPICALLY INCLUDED MORE THAN FAMILY MEMBERS EARNING INCOMES WHICH IS WHY THAT GAP TENDS TO BE NARROWER. WHEN WE LOOK AT FULL-TIME YEAR-ROUND WORKERS, JUST COMPARING WHAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY BRING HOME BY WAY OF INCOME, WE SEE A STARTLING DYNAMIC. THIS -- SOME PEOPLE HAVE CHALLENGED WELL, ARE WE COMPARING APPLES AND ORANGES WHEN WE LOOK AT SOME OF THESE FAMILY DYNAMICS OR SOME OF THE HOUSEHOLD DYNAMICS? BUT WHEN YOU SIMPLY COMPARE PEOPLE WORKING FULL-TIME YEAR-ROUND, WE STILL SEE A GAP OF 11,000 A YEAR IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY FOR A WHITE WORKER COMPARED TO A SLAVIC WORKER. AND WE ALSO SEE THAT SAME PATTERN AS THE LOCAL EXPERIENCE BEING SIGNIFICANTLY WORSE THAN THE NATIONAL EXPERIENCE. CHILD POVERTY RATES DEEPLY TROUBLING, AS I MENTIONED, THEY'RE DOUBLE. DOUBLY HIGH COMPARED TO THE WHITE COMMUNITY AND AGAIN A LOCALLY VERY CHALLENGING SITUATION. IN EDUCATION, WE WERE ABLE TO TAKE A MORE FULL LOOK AT EDUCATION BECAUSE WE'RE ABLE TO RUN SOME OF THE LOCAL DATA BY LANGUAGE. WE WERE ABLE TO PULL OUT SOME OF THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY'S EXPERIENCES AND WE ALSO HAD SOME OF THE MAIN STREAM DATA BASES. THERE IS A CHALLENGE IN GETTING INTO HIGHER EDUCATION. A QUARTER OF THE COMMUNITY HOLDS THE UNIVERSITY DEGREE, WHILE HALF OF WHITES HOLD A UNIVERSITY DEGREE. ACHIEVEMENT GAP, LOCAL DATA THAT WE WERE ABLE TO RUN, WE'RE LOOKING AT ABOUT A QUARTER FEWER BEING ABLE TO PASS STANDARDIZED TESTS. WE ALSO DID A SURVEY WITH OUR YOUTH, AND ONE IN FIVE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REPORT BEING HARASSED DUE TO THEIR RACE OR LANGUAGE OR ANCESTRY. 23% OF THEM ARE WORKING WHILE AT SCHOOL. AND THREE QUARTERS OF THOSE WORKING SAID THAT THIS IS A BARRIER TO THEIR ACADEMIC SUCCESS. GIVEN HOW CHALLENGING THE POVERTY RATES AND THE INCOME LEVEL, IT IS VERY LIKELY THESE ARE NOT YOUTH WORKING TO EARN POCKET MONEY, BUT WORKING TO PAY THE BILLS OF THEIR FAMILY. 38% OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE LOOKING BUT NOT ABLE TO FIND JOBS, AND THIS IS THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY. THIS IS THE PROFILE OF ADULTS IN TERMS OF THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND THE FAR RIGHT-HAND SIDE THAT WE'RE PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT AROUND ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION. BUT I ALSO WANT TO DRAW YOUR

ATTENTION TO THE FAR LEFT SIDE, WHICH IS HAVING LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL. UNFORTUNATELY, WE -- WE USUALLY THINK OF THIS AS BEING A SITUATION THAT IS PROBABLY GOING TO GET BETTER OVER TIME BECAUSE MODERN EDUCATION TENDS TO HELP KIDS AS OPPOSED TO ADULTS WHO MAY JUST NOT HAVE GONE -- SPENT MUCH TIME -- MUCH FOCUS GETTING THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. WE ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW IF THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER HERE. WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ACCESS TO DATA THAT AGGREGATES GRADUATION RATES FOR THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY AND WE ALSO HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THE DATA ON DISCIPLINE RATES, WHICH WE ALSO SUSPECT ARE PARTICULARLY TROUBLING. THAT IS A PRIORITY OF OURS TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND MORE FULLY IF THERE IS A CHANCE THAT THIS DATA, PROFILE AT THE LEFT-HAND SIDE IS GOING TO IMPROVE OR NOT. QUITE SIMPLY, WE DON'T KNOW AS YET. HERE IS OUR ACHIEVEMENT DATA WHERE WE LOOKED AT THE PERCENTAGE STUDENTS MEETING OR EXCEEDING MATH TESTS, AND THE HEAVIER BARS, THE WHITE COMMUNITY, ABOUT 70% MEETING OR EXCEEDING MATH, WHICH IS A DISASTROUS OUTCOME. AND THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY HAS 60 OR 57% OF THE COMMUNITY MEETING MATH TEST SCORES. IN ENGLISH THAT GAP WIDENS. READING AND LITERATURE -- THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE PULLED THIS DATA OUT. AND WHILE SOME OF THE COMMUNITIES OVER ON THE FARTHER RIGHT-HAND SIDE ARE PERFORMING A WHOLE LOT BETTER, NOTICE HOW SMALL THE -- THIS IS A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ARE ABLE TO PERFORM VERY WELL IN THESE SITUATIONS. THE LARGEST COMMUNITIES HERE ARE FORMALLY WHO IDENTIFY AS RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN. AND THOSE ARE WHERE OUR DATA IS PARTICULARLY TROUBLING. THE FINAL PIECE -- I'M JUST GOING TO JUMP -- FINAL PIECE IN TERMS OF THE CURRENT PROFILE OF OUR -- OF HOW OUR COMMUNITY IS DOING IS NEW DATA -- UNFORTUNATELY IT IS NOT IN YOUR REPORT BUT I THOUGHT IT WORTHY TO PUT IN. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RECENT REPORTS ON WEALTH. AND WEALTH IS A REALLY IMPORTANT MEASURE. IT IS THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL OF YOUR ASSETS MINUS YOUR DEBT. AND IT IS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE BECAUSE IT IS OUR -- IT IS OUR SECURITY. IT LETS US WEATHER ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, AND IT ALSO LETS US TAKE RISKS TO DO THINGS LIKE OPEN A SMALL BUSINESS OR GO BACK TO SCHOOL OR CHANGE JOBS AND NOT KNOW REALLY WHERE YOU'RE GOING OR MOVE AND START OUT IN A NEW REGION. IT IS THAT ASSET BASE THAT WE CAN PASS ON TO OUR KIDS IF WE'RE FORTUNATE TO HAVE ASSETS THAT BECOMES INCOME FOR THEM ON OUR DEATH. A LONG-TERM LOOK AT CLASS ISSUES. HOW IS OUR COMMUNITY DOING? BACK IN 1992, THIS IS NATIONAL LEVEL DATA. IT IS NOT AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. THE RUSSIAN COMMUNITY HAD AN AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD WEALTH OF \$15,000, COMPARED TO THE WHITE COMMUNITY, WHICH WAS ALMOST 10 TIMES THAT AT \$130,000. AND YOU SEE HERE, THE PROFILE OF OTHER COMMUNITIES OF COLOR HERE. I SIMPLY ADDED THEM FOR A REFERENCE POINT BECAUSE THEY WERE AVAILABLE. THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT IS REALLY CHALLENGED IN TERMS OF THAT SECURITY AND THAT ASSET BASE. FAST FORWARD TO ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO, 20 YEARS FAST FORWARD FROM THE LAST TIME, AND WE ACTUALLY SEE IN THIS DYNAMIC THAT THE ASSET-BASE OF THE RUSSIAN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN DECIMATED. SO, BY 2003, THE COMMUNITY HAD LOST

ABOUT A 10-FOLD LEVEL OF ASSETS, AND THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT VARIATION BETWEEN THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME COMPARED TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AT MORE THAN 20 YEARS, AND WHAT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE IS THE OTHER COMMUNITIES REFERENCED THERE, INCREASE THEIR ASSET BASE THE LONGER THEY'RE IN THE COUNTRY, WHEREAS THE RUSSIAN COMMUNITY HAS SEEN IT DROP THE LONGER THEY'RE IN THE COMMUNITY. SO, THIS SIGNALS TO US A VERY -- AN INDICATOR THAT THE COMMUNITY IS REALLY STRUGGLING TO GET A TOE HOLD AND IS DRAWING DOWN ITS ASSET BASE THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO BRING OVER WITH THEM. AND IT IS NOT ESTABLISHING THE KIND OF PROGRESS THAT OTHER COMMUNITIES ARE FACING. PART OF THE SITUATION IS THIS IS A RELATIVELY RECENT GROUP. AND, SO, WE USED TO HOLD A BELIEF, AND IT USED TO BE TRUE, WHEN IMMIGRANT GROUPS ARRIVED HERE, IT TOOK THEM AWHILE TO GET A TOE HOLD. BUT THEN THEY WERE ABLE TO DO SO AND ACHIEVE MUCH IMPROVED OUTCOMES. THE SAME THINGS NOT TO BE HAPPENING FOR THE RUSSIAN COMMUNITY. AND THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY. AND A FACTOR OF THAT IS THAT THEY'RE MOST -- THEY'RE MORE RECENT ARRIVALS, COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE ARRIVED HERE MORE RECENTLY, AND THE PARTICULAR NATURE OF WHAT IT TAKES TO GET BY ECONOMICALLY AND HOW ONE GETS A TOE HOLD HAS REALLY BEEN CHANGING. MORE RECENT ARRIVALS, WE NOW HAVE A DYNAMIC WHERE MANY COMMUNITIES WHO ARRIVED HERE ARE HEADED BACK TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT ABLE TO THRIVE LOCALLY AND I THINK WE'RE SEEING THAT WITH THE RUSSIAN COMMUNITY HERE IN THESE NUMBERS. TURNING NOW TO WHAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE RECESSIONARY PERIOD BETWEEN 2008 AND 2001. THIS IS -- THIS IS THE WORST DATA OF ANY OF OUR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN TERMS OF HOW MUCH OF A LOSS THESE COMMUNITIES ARE FACING. AND THE OVER-ARCHING PICTURE IS THAT THE DYNAMIC IS SHOWING UP IN THE JOBS ONE IS ABLE TO GET, INCOME, EMPLOYMENT, POVERTY. IN EVERY AREA, THE KIND OF DETERIORATION IS VERY PRONOUNCED. AND I'LL GO THROUGH WHAT THOSE LOOK LIKE WITH THESE NEXT SET OF CHARTS. SO, ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OF THE SCREEN SHOWS THE SLAVIC EMPLOYMENT PROFILE. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE COMMUNITY IS GETTING WHAT KINDS OF JOBS. SO, AT THE START OF THE RECESSION, SLAVIC COMMUNITIES EMPLOYMENT PROFILE WAS MORE THAN 40% IN WHAT WE CALL OUR GOOD JOBS AND MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL FIELDS. THREE YEARS LATER, THEY'RE LOOKING AT 11% OF THE POPULATION HAVING ACCESS TO THOSE JOBS. WITH THE REQUISITE -- SORRY, 23% AND THE REQUISITE SHIFT IS THAT THOSE POSITIONS ARE MOVING OVER TO SERVICE POSITIONS. PEOPLE ARE LOSING THEIR JOBS, FACING HIGH LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND MOVING INTO WHATEVER THEY CAN GET, WHICH IS IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY. THAT SAME KIND OF --

>> QUICK QUESTION. IT HAS BEEN AWHILE SINCE I HAVE SEEN ONE OF THESE REPORTS AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING. DO WE HAVE THE SAME STATISTICS FOR THE OTHER COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS COMMUNITY FAIRS WORTH IN THIS CATEGORY?

>> THE SHIFT AS FAIRED WORSE. I HAVE TO SAY I DON'T KNOW THE FULL -- BECAUSE WE DID A DEEP DIVE FOR THE THREE YEARS, SOME OF THE REPORTS GOT DONE EARLIER AND WE DIDN'T NEED TO REPEAT THE DATA, SO I'M NOT QUITE SURE OF THE ANSWER TO THAT. I CAN FIND IT OUT --

>> YEAH, THAT WOULD BE GREAT, THANK YOU.

>> AND THE SHIFT IN DYNAMIC -- WE HAVE THAT COMPARISON, AND THAT JOB PROFILE HAS STAYED RELATIVELY CONSTANT. POVERTY RATES RAPIDLY DETERIORATING OVER THESE LAST THREE YEARS WITH CHILD POVERTY BEING BY FAR THE MOST -- THE ONE THAT IS MOST CHALLENGING. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, WHITE -- AS THE RECESSION WAS BEGINNING TO COME TO A CLOSE, AND THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY 13% BY 2011. HERE IS THE PARTICULARLY TROUBLING AND IT IS THE LAST PIECE OF DATA THAT WE WILL PUT BEFORE YOU TODAY. ONE'S BIGGEST ASSET, UNLESS YOU ARE IN THE TOP 1% OF FAMILIES IN THE REGION, IS THE VALUE OF ONE'S HOME. AND WE KNOW THAT THE RECESSION HAS TAKEN MUCH OUT OF OUR HOUSING ASSETS, WHAT IS LEFT IN OUR HOME EQUITY. WE DID A COMPARISON, VALUE OF ONE'S HOUSE, DROPPED BY \$100,000 OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD FOR THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY, WHILE IT DROPPED \$24,000 -- MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THAT LEVEL OF EQUITY LOST. THIS IS A COMMUNITY THAT IS GOING TO BE STRUGGLING FOR A LONG TIME TO REGAIN THE GAINS IT HAD BACK IN 2008. THE RECOVERY PERIOD WE CAN ANTICIPATE IS GOING TO BE VERY LONG, VERY TOUGH, AND IT IS A COMMUNITY THAT IS IN NEED OF SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT. SO, IN SUMMARY FROM THE DATA THAT HAS BEEN HIGHLIGHTED FOR YOU TODAY, WE SEE AN URGENCY AROUND THE NEED FOR INVESTMENTS FOR VISIBILITY, FOR SERVICES, AND FOR ENGAGEMENT OF THIS COMMUNITY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER PRESENCE IN PUBLIC POLICY. THANK YOU. WITH THAT, I WILL TURN IT OVER TO NINA.

>> HI, I'M NINA. A LITTLE ABOUT MYSELF. I IMMIGRATED FROM UKRAINE WITH MY FAMILY. WE LIVE HERE FOR 17 YEARS NOW. WE HAVE HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA. WE HAVE THE FREEDOM THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE BACK IN UKRAINE. MY GRANDFATHER WAS IN PRISON FOR BEING A BELIEVER. MY MOM NEVER GOT A'S IN SCHOOL BECAUSE SHE WAS A BELIEVER, AND BECAUSE OF THAT, SHE COULDN'T MOVE ON TO HIGHER ED. AND THAT'S THE CASE FOR A LOT OF OLDER SLAVIC PEOPLE IN AMERICA. THEY NEVER REALLY GOT THE EDUCATION, AND MOVING HERE THEY DON'T REALLY HAVE THE LANGUAGE, SO THEY'RE AFRAID TO GO INTO EDUCATION AGAIN. I WILL START FROM COUNTY-WIDE -- I WILL INCLUDE ANECDOTES SO THAT YOU WILL LEARN A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY. FIRST ONE IS DATA SYSTEMS. WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD SLAVIC AS A RACIAL CATEGORY IN ALL COUNTY DATA SYSTEMS, INCLUDING COUNTY CONTRACTS. FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET DATA IN SLAVIC COMMUNITY, HOWEVER, SINCE WE ARE UNDER THE WHITE CATEGORY, IT MAKES IT REALLY HARD TO MEASURE OUR PROGRESS AND DATA. OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR THE COUNTY IS TO ADD SLAVIC AS ONE OF THE CATEGORIES UNDER RACIAL BACKGROUNDS ON ALL COUNTY-WIDE

FORUMS. THAT WAY WE WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL AT MEASURING DATA IN THE COUNTY, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, ETC. THE SECOND RECOMMENDATION IS FOR THE WORK FORCE. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A QUICK QUESTION, HOW MANY SLAVIC PEOPLE WORK FOR THE COUNTY AS OF RIGHT NOW? WE MIGHT NOT HAVE THAT DATA BECAUSE WE ARE CONSIDERED WHITE. OR THERE AREN'T A LOT OF SLAVIC PEOPLE WORKING FOR THE COUNTY. OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE COUNTY WILL INCREASE THE HIRING OF SLAVIC PEOPLE AND GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO MOVE UP IN THEIR JOBS AND RESPONSIBILITIES SO THAT WE MAY GROW AN ADVOCATE FOR OUR COMMUNITY WITHIN THE COUNTY. WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE PRESENT IN SCHOOLS, HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL SERVICES, JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS. NUMBER THREE, COMMUNICATIONS. EVEN THOUGH THE COUNTY PROVIDES MANY ESSENTIAL SERVICES, THEY'RE NOT WELL-KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY AND WE HAVEN'T SEEN A LOT OF CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE MATERIALS THAT ARE CREATED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY. OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE COUNTY PROVIDES THE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE MATERIALS AND WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM AVAILABLE AT EUROPEAN MARKETS, CHURCHES, MAYBE SLAVIC SCHOOLS, PRIVATE SCHOOLS, SO THAT IT IS AVAILABLE TO PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS TO SEE. PRIORITIES INCLUDE LEGAL RIGHTS, HEALTH CARE NAVIGATION, PARENTING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, ETC. NUMBER FOUR IS CAPACITY BUILDING. WE, THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY, HAVE A LOT OF GOALS. AND SOME OF THOSE GOALS ARE SHORT-TERM WHILE OTHERS ARE LONG-TERM, AND ONE OF OUR LONG-TERM GOALS IS TO HAVE A SLAVIC COMMUNITY CENTER WHERE SLAVIC PEOPLE CAN COME AND GET HELP WITH ANYTHING -- WITH ANY SOCIAL NEEDS. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL, WE NEED MORE CAPACITY SO THAT IN THE FUTURE WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY TO OPEN SUCH A CENTER. I WILL MOVE ON TO DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS. THE FIRST ONE IS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES. WE WANT TO DEVELOP SLAVIC-SPECIFIC FUNDING AND PROGRAMMING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION, AGING, AND HOMELESS SERVICES. WHAT WE WANT TO DO IS WORK TOGETHER WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES TO COME UP WITH PLAN TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MENTAL HEALTH AND -- FOR EXAMPLE, IF THERE IS A FAMILY WHO NEEDS SUPPORT IN ONE OF THE ABOVE AREAS, THEY DON'T REALLY KNOW WHO TO TURN TO. MOST OF THE OLDER PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO LANGUAGE SKILLS HAVE NO ONE TO TURN TO BUT THEIR BUSY GRANDCHILDREN AND THAT CAN SOMETIMES TIGHTEN RELATIONSHIPS. I ACTUALLY HAVE FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE. I HAVE A BROTHER WHO HAD A BRAIN TUMOR, AND THE DOCTORS MADE A MISTAKE BY TAKING THE TUMOR OUT AND NOW HE HAS A MENTAL DISABILITY. AND THERE IS A LOT OF WORK THAT GOES INTO CALLING THE DOCTORS AND A LITTLE BIT ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY YOU CAN TELL IS THAT WE'RE VERY SLOW TO SUE OR TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION BECAUSE OF THAT LANGUAGE. THERE IS FEAR TO SUE THE DOCTORS OR TO GET COMPENSATION FOR SUCH DAMAGE. WE'RE MORE QUIET. IT IS OKAY. WE CAN GO THROUGH THIS. SO, MY MOM ALWAYS -- WHEN SHE CALLS ME, YOU

KNOW, LIKE EVERY DAUGHTER, WE -- HOW ARE YOU? DO YOU WANT TO GO SHOPPING? DO YOU WANT TO DO OUR NAILS POSSIBLY? BUT IT IS ALSO LIKE CAN YOU WRITE AN EMAIL FOR ME? CAN YOU CALL THE DOCTOR? CAN YOU CALL THE FACILITY TO ASK THEM? CAN YOU DO THIS? I'M ALWAYS LIKE OH, NO. I JUST WISH, I WISH THERE WAS A PLACE WHERE SHE CAN GO TO GET ALL OF THE HELP THAT SHE NEEDS. SIMPLY FINDING A MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY. THAT WAS PROBABLY THE HARDEST PART IN OUR JOURNEY. BUT THAT IS JUST A LITTLE EXAMPLE FOR THE COUNTY HEALTH HUMAN SERVICES. PARENT EDUCATION AND SCHOOL RETENTION-- PARENT EDUCATION IS A BIG NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY. CULTURE CLASH HAS BEEN VERY HARD ON BOTH PARENTS AND CHILDREN. WHEN PARENTS STILL WANT TO RAISE THEIR KIDS USING THE SLAVIC TECHNIQUES, IT DOESN'T REALLY WORK FOR THE KIDS WHO GREW UP IN AMERICA. AND BOTH ARE LEFT VERY IRRITATED, BOTH CHILDREN AND PARENTS, AND PARENT EDUCATION WOULD BE A HUGE BENEFIT. I KNOW THAT SOME SCHOOLS CREATE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENT EDUCATION, HOWEVER, I WORK AT A SCHOOL, AND SLAVIC PARENTS ARE NOT VERY ACTIVE IN THE SCHOOL LIFE. THEY DON'T REALLY COME TO CLASSES. I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY. MAYBE THEY DON'T FEEL WELCOME. MAYBE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SLAVIC PEOPLE IN THE SCHOOLS, BUT MAYBE CREATING PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES IN CHURCHES WOULD BE A HELPFUL IDEA, BECAUSE MOST OF THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY USE THEIR CHURCH AS SLAVIC COMMUNITY CENTERS BECAUSE THERE IS LANGUAGE CLASSES OFFERED. SOME CHURCHES HAVE MUSIC LESSONS, CHOIR, AND HAVING PARENT EDUCATION TRAININGS AT THE CHURCHES WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA AS A RECOMMENDATION. AND SCHOOL RETENTION IS ALSO HUGE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY. AS WE HEARD, 23% OF THE HIGH SCHOOLERS WHO WORK, 75% OF THEM FACE STRONG BARRIERS. SOME OF THEM CAME FROM UKRAINE TO GRADE 8 AND THEY ALREADY KNOW ALL OF THE HIGH SCHOOL MATH. AND THEY'RE JUST SIMPLY BORED IN HIGH SCHOOL BECAUSE THEY ALREADY KNOW THAT. AND YOU KNOW, THEIR FIRST THING IS TO DROP OUT OR GO WORK SOMEWHERE BECAUSE THEY ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING. MY RECOMMENDATION-- OUR RECOMMENDATION IS TO HAVE SOME KIND OF PREVENTATIVE SERVICES FOR THE STUDENTS AND MAYBE PROVIDE CHALLENGING CONTENT CLASSES OR OFFER COLLEGE CLASSES FOR THE STUDENTS TO TAKE AT THEIR OWN LEVEL. MAYBE LIKE AN EARLY COLLEGE -- I KNOW SOME SCHOOLS OFFER THAT. AND NUMBER THREE IS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE. WE DON'T HAVE EXACT DATA ON HOW MUCH SLAVIC YOUTH GET INTO JUVENILE, BUT BY WORD OF MOUTH, A LOT OF YOUNG YOUTH, PARTICULARLY BOYS, WHO GET IN TROUBLE AND FACE CONSEQUENCES. OUR RECOMMENDATION IS TO GET TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH A PROGRAM FOR SLAVIC YOUTH TO KEEP THEM OUT OF TROUBLE. CREATE A PREVENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR THEM, MAKING SURE THAT THE YOUTH KNOWS THE AUTHORITY OF THE PARENTS AND THEIR RIGHTS. A LOT OF TIMES I SEE THAT PARENTS ARE VERY FEARFUL BECAUSE OF ALL OF THE THINGS THEY HEAR ABOUT DHS AND HAVING THEIR KIDS TAKEN AWAY. FEARFUL WHEN IT COMES TO DISCIPLINING THEIR KIDS. IF THEY-- YOU KNOW WHAT, YOU'RE GROUNDED IF YOU COME HOME LATE PAST YOUR CURFEW, WELL, IN SCHOOL THEY TOLD ME THAT YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO

DO THAT AND THE PARENTS DON'T KNOW THEIR RIGHTS, OH, MY GOSH, THEN I'M NOT GOING TO SAY THAT. THEY ARE MORE LENIENT, AND CREATING PREVENTATIVE SERVICES WHERE PARENTS ARE INVOLVED AND THE BOYS, THE YOUNG YOUTH KNOW THE PARENT RIGHTS AND KNOW THAT THEY'RE UNDER PARENTAL DISCIPLINE UNTIL 18, THAT WOULD BE HELPFULL. THE LAST RECOMMENDATION IS FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. NAVIGATING HEALTH CARE WHEN ONE FACES A LANGUAGE BARRIER AND ONE IS AN OUTSIDER TO THE U.S. HEALTH SYSTEM IS VERY DIFFICULT. ENSURING THAT HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS BECOME CULTURALLY COMPETENT IS A PRESSING PRIORITY. LANGUAGE ACCESS, HEALTH LITERACY, CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE COMMUNITY, ETC. OFTEN I HEAR THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY MEMBERS SAY DOCTORS WANT TO MAKE MONEY AND CAN'T HELP OUR HEALTH. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HEAR THIS A LOT, BUT IT IS A HUGE THING IN YOUR COMMUNITY. THAT IS ALMOST ALL I HAVE BEEN HEARING, AND IT IS KIND OF -- IT'S SAD BECAUSE THERE IS A HUGE FEAR BETWEEN DOCTORS AND FAMILIES RIGHT NOW, I FEEL LIKE, BECAUSE IT IS A TRUST ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, PARENTS DON'T WANT TO TAKE THEIR KIDS TO THE DOCTOR IF THE KID IS REALLY SICK OR HAS A BLACK EYE BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID THAT THE DOCTOR IS GOING TO CALL DHS. IT AS HUGE TRUST ISSUE. OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND US CAN COME UP WITH A PLAN TO BETTER SERVE THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY. HAVING A PROGRAM WHERE SLAVIC PEOPLE CAN COME AND FIND A SLAVIC HEALTH PROVIDER THAT UNDERSTANDS THE CULTURE, WOULD BE A GREAT START. THERE IS A LOT OF SLAVIC PEOPLE IN THE MEDICAL FIELD RIGHT NOW. THERE IS A LOT OF PEOPLE GOING INTO MED SCHOOL, AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PROVIDERS, I KNOW, BUT THERE ISN'T A LIST OF THEM. LIKE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND THEM. IF A SLAVIC PERSON WANTS TO FIND A FAMILY DOCTOR WHO UNDERSTANDS THEIR CULTURE, THERE ISN'T A PLACE TO COME TO AND JUST GET A LIST. IT IS VERY DIFFICULT. AND WITH THAT, THAT'S ALL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT I HAVE. I HOPE THAT YOU GUYS TAKE THEM INTO ACCOUNT.

>> THANK YOU. ANY QUESTIONS?

>> MADAM CHAIR, I HAVE A QUESTION. THANK YOU FOR THE PRESENTATION. AND I WANT TO GO BACK TO SOMETHING IN TERMS OF CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING FOR SUN SCHOOLS AND THOSE KINDS OF THINGS. RIGHT NOW, YOU DON'T USE ANY OF THE SERVICES AT IRCO?

>> ME SPECIFICALLY?

>> LEE.

>> THE IRCO PROGRAMMING, AT THE MOMENT, ARE THE MAJORITY OF THEM FOCUSED ON REFUGEE. THAT MEANS WE USE THE FEDERAL POLICY GUIDELINES, AND SO WHAT THAT MEANS IS MOSTLY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, AND SO, YOU KNOW, THAT IS THE FIRST MONTH. SO, FIRST EIGHT MONTHS, YOU KNOW, THE FIRST DAY WHEN

THEY ARRIVE IN THE COUNTRY TO THE EIGHTH MONTH THAT THEY'RE HERE. THE POLICY -- THAT MEANS WITHIN EIGHT MONTHS, A FAMILY NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO BE SELF SUFFICIENT AND SELF-SUPPORTING, OUTSIDE OF THAT RESOURCES ARE VERY LIMITED. EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE SOME SORT OF EXTENDED SERVICES AFTER FIVE YEARS, BUT THOSE ARE VERY LIMITED RESOURCES AND, SO, AGAIN, VERY FOCUSED ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, AND SO OUTSIDE OF THAT, VERY, VERY SLIM IN TERMS OF ALL OF THE RESOURCES TO FOCUS ON THE REFUGEE POPULATION, SLAVIC COMMUNITY.

>> AND THEY DON'T PARTICIPATE -- OR THEY'RE NOT BASICALLY EDUCATED ABOUT WHICH SUN SERVICE PROGRAMS ARE OUT THERE THAT IS AVAILABLE?

>> I THINK CURRENTLY NOW, I THINK -- CURRENT PROVIDER ON SLAVIC PROGRAMMING, AND TO THAT END, I WILL -- YOU KNOW, I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ANSWER YOU IN TERMS OF HOW ACCESSIBLE AND THAT, BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, I AM NOT ABLE TO SPEAK FOR --

>> I'M JUST WONDERING WHEN FOLKS COME THROUGH YOUR REFUGEE PROGRAM FOR THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS, DO YOU GIVE THEM A PACKET OF RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICES? BECAUSE ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I THINK WE COULD DO FAIRLY QUICKLY IS TO CREATE -- AND I CREATED A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR CHURCHES ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THE SERVICES THAT WE OFFER THROUGH MULTNOMAH COUNTY, AND MAYBE THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE CAN ALSO DO TO HELP THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY AS WELL.

>> THE -- THERE IS IN THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SYSTEM, WHAT WE CALL A VOLUNTARY AGENCY, FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATION, LIKE CATHOLIC CHARITIES, AND THE LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES, THEY'RE THE ONES THAT GIVE THE ORIENTATION, AND, SO, BASICALLY -- I MEAN ON THE FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS, FIRST 30 DAYS, WITHIN THEIR ARRIVAL IN THE STATE, THEY WILL PROVIDE THAT GENERAL ORIENTATION TO THEM.

>> OKAY. AND FOR THE YOUNG LADY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRESENTATION. YOU SAY A LOT OF YOUR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES ARE DONE IN CHURCHES. COULD YOU TELL ME WHICH CHURCHES? AND WHERE?

>> THERE IS A LOT. DO YOU WANT THE NAMES OF THEM --

>> I CAN TALK WITH YOU LATER AFTER THE MEETING, BUT IF YOU COULD GIVE ME A LIST, AND WE CAN DO SOME OUTREACH IN TERMS OF GETTING THEM RESOURCES SO THAT THEY CAN GET IT OUT TO THE COMMUNITY.

>> SURE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIR. APPRECIATED THE PRESENTATION. INTERESTING AND A COMPELLING MIX OF BOTH DATA AND ANECDOTE. I'M CURIOUS, I HEARD SEVERAL DESCRIPTIONS OF A LACK OF TRUST BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONS THAT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE TO ME AS AN OUTSIDER. I'M CURIOUS, HOW DO WE BUILD THAT TRUST BETTER? IS THIS -- IS THERE A LANGUAGE COMPETENCY ISSUE, IS IT CULTURAL COMPETENCY ISSUES, AND I GUESS AS A SECONDARY QUESTION, I APOLOGIZE FOR MY IGNORANCE ON THIS, HOW INTEGRATED IS THE LANGUAGE SYSTEM WITHIN THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY AND HOW DO WE TRAIN PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH FOLKS IN THE COMMUNITY?

>> I THINK THE MAIN ISSUE WITH THE SLAVIC COMMUNITY, LANGUAGE BARRIER. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, COUNTY OR SOME OTHER AGENCY PROVIDE -- THIS IS THE PROBLEM THEY PROVIDE IN ENGLISH, AND IF NEWCOMERS COME TO THE UNITED STATES, THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND -- IT IS VERY HARD FOR THEM. AND, ALSO, A LOT OF -- [INAUDIBLE] -- PROVIDED IN DIFFERENT IMPLICATIONS AND SLAVIC COMMUNITY, LIKE YOU SEE ANN SAID, IT IS -- HUGE FAMILIES, LIKE FIVE, SEVEN, 10, ACTUALLY 20 CHILDREN IN THE FAMILY. LIKE A LOT OF A LOT OF PEOPLE. ACTUALLY A LACK OF CHILD CARE SERVICES ALSO. WE KNOW A LOT OF -- WE HAVE MONEY FOR -- FROM THE COMMUNITY, FROM THE CITY TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC -- WE CANNOT GET MONEY FOR CHILD CARE, FOR EXAMPLE. THIS IS -- THIS HAS BECOME VERY DIFFICULT FOR US.

>> AND TO ANSWER THE FIRST PART THAT YOU SAID WHAT WILL HELP? I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MIGHT HELP IS JUST QUICKLY THINK ABOUT IT, IS HAVING THE SLAVIC PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT PLACES SO THAT WHEREVER THEY CAN GO, THEY CAN TALK TO SOMEONE THAT THEY KNOW. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS, BUT IT FEELS LIKE ANOTHER PERSON WHO IS FROM YOUR LANGUAGE KIND OF FEELS LIKE HOME, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. YOU COME TO A PLACE, IS THERE A PERSON THAT SPEAKS MY LANGUAGE? AND YOU SPOT THEM AND YOU'RE LIKE OH, GREAT. THEY CAN UNDERSTAND ME. IT IS THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP. AND WHEN THEY DON'T REALLY SEE A LOT OF THOSE PEOPLE AND THEY HAVE TO GO TO PLACES THEY FEEL LIKE OTHERS CAN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THEM, I GUESS. LIKE MY MOM SAYS A LOT OF TIMES, SHE TRIES TO EXPLAIN HERSELF, AND PEOPLE AT STORES, THEY'RE KIND OF CARELESS -- I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU AND I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO TRY. THAT KIND OF THING. AND IT IS SEEN A LOT, YOU KNOW, AND MY MOM TELLS ME A LOT ABOUT IT. AND IT IS SAD. MAYBE HAVING MORE SLAVIC PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY TO BE AVAILABLE.

>> COMMISSIONER, LET ME ALSO SHARE ONE THING WITH YOU IN TERMS OF HOW DO WE BUILD TRUST AND WHAT IS THAT LACK OF -- WHY IS THAT LACK OF TRUST SO DEEP? I THINK NOT ONLY OUR SLAVIC COMMUNITY, BUT MANY OTHER REFUGEE POPULATION, WE CAME FROM SUCH A TOP-DOWN GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM AND ANY TIME WE TALK ABOUT GOVERNMENT WE LOOK AT YOU AS AN AUTHORITY. EVEN THOUGH -- WHAT YOU SAY IS RIGHT, SO RATHER THAN -- A CITIZEN HAS, YOU KNOW, THE LEGAL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, OR WHATEVER RIGHTS THAT WE HAD, THAT IS ONE OF THE

FUNDAMENTAL UNSPOKEN FEARS, FACTORS THAT DEEPLY ROOTED WITH US. SO, HOW WE REMOVE THAT, I THINK THE ONE THING THAT EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN US THAT NOT UNTIL THE POINT WHERE WE FEEL COMFORTABLE THAT EDUCATION HAS TO GO BOTH WAYS, THAT YOU FROM GOVERNMENTAL -- NOT NECESSARILY GOVERNMENTAL, BUT INSTITUTION, MAY LOOK AT YOU AS AUTHORITY. SO WHATEVER YOU SAY IS RIGHT. THAT IS A PERCEPTION. THAT IS A BELIEF THAT -- HOW DO WE MOVE -- A LOT OF EDUCATION THAT NEEDED TO GO BOTH WAYS FROM US TO YOU AND FROM YOU TO US, AND TO THE POINT WHERE THERE IS A COMMON GROUND AND UNDERSTANDING THAT TRULY THIS IS THE -- THIS IS A FREE COUNTRY, AND THAT TRULY CITIZEN HAS A VOICE, CITIZEN ALSO HAS A RIGHT, AND THE CONCEPT OF BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, IS NOT REAL FOR US YET. UNTIL THEN, MAYBE, WE CAN REMOVE THOSE BARRIERS.

>> MADAM CHAIR, I HAVE A QUESTION.

>> A FOLLOW-UP?

>> GO AHEAD.

>> THANK YOU.

>> I APPRECIATE THAT ANSWER. AND I WOULD IMAGINE THAT TRUST BUILDING IS A VERY LONG EXERCISE, PERHAPS MULTI-GENERATIONAL EXERCISE. I GUESS THE SECOND PART OF MY QUESTION IS A LITTLE MORE BASIC, I APPRECIATE THE NEED TO HIRE MORE SLAVIC INDIVIDUALS IN SERVICE PROVISION AND TRAIN PEOPLE IN CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND SLAVIC LANGUAGES, IF YOU HAVE SOMEBODY WHO IS SERBIAN, UKRAINIAN, RUSSIAN, OR ANY OF THE OTHER SLAVIC-ORIGIN COUNTRIES, ARE THOSE LANGUAGES MUTUALLY INTELLIGIBLE? ARE THEY SIMILAR CULTURES? IS IT ENOUGH TO HAVE SOME -- IF YOU -- YOU MENTIONED GOING IN AND SPEAKING WITH SOMEBODY WHO SPEAKS SLAVIC LANGUAGES FEELS LIKE HOME, IS THAT TRUE IF YOU ARE UKRAINIAN AND THE SERVICE PROVIDER IS RUSSIAN OR SERBIAN, HOW DOES THAT DYNAMIC WORK?

>> FOR NOW, UKRAINIAN AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES VERY SIMILAR. MY HUSBAND IS UKRAINIAN, AND HIS FAMILY TALKS UKRAINIAN, AND IT IS REALLY SIMILAR. OTHER COUNTRIES SURROUNDING RUSSIA, THEIR LANGUAGES ARE NOT AS SIMILAR BUT THE CULTURE, I FEEL LIKE, IS VERY SIMILAR. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT, BUT I FEEL LIKE THEY REALLY ARE SIMILAR. THE CULTURES.

>> I TOTALLY AGREE WITH NINA. I WANT TO ADD A LITTLE ABOUT TRUST. COUNTY OR SOME OTHER AGENCY PROVIDES A LOT OF SERVICES. I CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 2005, AND WE GET APARTMENT FOR \$800. IN CLACKAMAS SOMEWHERE. AND I DON'T REMEMBER -- THE WELFARE PROVIDE SERVICES THAT MY MOM AND I, BECAUSE I WAS A LITTLE BIT OLDER, CAN GET \$300 TOTAL PER MONTH, AND IT IS TOTAL \$600. AND PAY \$800, AND IT WENT FOR THE WELFARE AND ASKED FOR HELP, AND, I'M

SORRY, THESE PEOPLE WERE SO RUDE. THEY SAID, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU HAVE TO GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY. I'M SORRY. THIS IS AMERICA. YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND. COME BACK. THAT'S IT. AND IT WAS LIKE WOW. WE CAME HERE LIKE A REFUGEE, AND WE ASKED FOR HELP AND THESE PEOPLE WAS TOTALLY RUDE FOR US. WITH THIS EXPERIENCE, WE NEVER COME BACK TO THE WELFARE AGAIN. BECAUSE SO, SO RUDE FROM THEM. AND WE GET THE RUSSIAN INTERPRETER AND THE INTERPRETER FOR US, IT WAS TOTALLY CHANGING EXPERIENCE. AND WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE, LIKE RESPECT. I KNOW I'M IMMIGRANT. I KNOW I HAVE NOT GOOD LANGUAGE. MY LANGUAGE IS NOT VERY GOOD. SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND ME, BUT WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE RESPECT BECAUSE I'M HUMAN AND I'M HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

>> THANK YOU. COMMISSIONER SMITH --

>> MADAM CHAIR, THANK YOU. I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT. BECAUSE WE CAN'T LEGISLATE MANNERS, AND THEY SHOULD HAVE REFERRED YOU TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PORTLAND, WHERE YOU COULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSIDIZED HOUSING BASED ON THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT YOU BROUGHT IN, 30%, IN FACT, AND, YEAH, I CAN BELIEVE IT HAPPENED. BUT THIS IS THE OTHER QUESTION THAT I WANTED TO FIND OUT. DO WE HAVE ANYBODY FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT HERE? IT IS -- IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE OFFER TRANSLATION SERVICES AT OUR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS. IS THAT CORRECT? OKAY. AND --

>> [INAUDIBLE]

>> OKAY. MAYBE THAT IS SOMETHING THAT WE, YOU KNOW, WHEN I COME OUT TO YOUR CHURCHES TO EXPLAIN THAT WHEN YOU MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH OUR HEALTH CLINICS THAT YOU CAN ASK FOR A TRANSLATOR. AND I THINK A LOT OF THIS IS JUST EDUCATION PIECES THAT YOU MAY OR MAY NOT BE AWARE OF THAT WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE MORE HELPFUL THAN WHAT IT APPEARS TO BE RIGHT NOW. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I GET SOME OF THOSE THINGS OUT TO THE COMMUNITY SO THAT THEY KNOW IT IS OKAY. AND IF A DOCTOR DOES REFER YOU FOR CERTAIN PILLS, THAT THEY WOULDN'T DO IT IF YOU DIDN'T NEED IT. SO, I THINK IT IS JUST A MATTER OF, LIKE YOU SAID, THE TRUST AND BUILD UP THE TRUST WITH FOLKS. WE WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT. THAT SHOULDN'T BE HAPPENING TO YOU, THAT YOU GO INTO A PLACE AND YOU HAVE NO TRANSLATION.

>> I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING THIS MORNING. WE HAVE ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT BRIEFING FOLLOWING THIS, BUT I WANTED TO RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE YOU COMING THIS MORNING AND SHARING THESE. THEY'RE ALWAYS SO FASCINATING THAT WE COULD SPEND HOURS AND HOURS IN CONVERSATION. THERE IS SO MUCH WORK TO BE DONE TO RECTIFY A LOT OF THE PROBLEMS THAT WE MENTIONED. I AM EXCITED ABOUT HAVING BEN DUNCAN, OUR NEW ODE CORRECTOR, AND -- DIRECTOR, AND I KNOW THE PRIOR CHAIR -- RESEARCH WHAT SERVICES ARE

AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY, LOOK AT RECOMMENDATIONS YOU PROVIDED TODAY AND HOW WE CAN BETTER ADDRESS THOSE AND HAVE FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATIONS AS OPPOSED TO HAVING THESE YOU COME BEFORE US AND GIVE THIS FASCINATING PRESENTATION AND WE SAY THANK YOU VERY MUCH. WE WILL ACTUALLY HAVE A FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION AND DECIDE WHICH AREAS WE NEED TO MOVE FORWARD ON AND WHICH AREAS ALREADY ARE SERVICES PROVIDED AND WE JUST NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB OF GETTING THE WORD OUT. THIS IS NOT THE LAST TIME WE WILL SEE YOU. BUT HOPEFULLY THE BEGINNING OF A FRUITFUL CONVERSATION. I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN ALL FOR COMING THIS MORNING.

>> THANK YOU.

>> OKAY. OUR NEXT BRIEFING THIS MORNING. MARINA --

>> INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON 2014 POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON.

>> WHILE WE'RE TRANSITIONING, I KNOW THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE TODAY AND LISTENING WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE TRAGEDY THAT OCCURRED IN TROUTDALE THIS MORNING. AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE THE WORK THAT WE'RE DOING HERE AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY. WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME TO TESTIFY ABOUT THE IMPORTANT ISSUES, PLEASE KNOW THAT ALL OF OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> GOOD MORNING.

>> MADAM CHAIR. THRILLING TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT AND COMMISSIONER BAILEY. MARY LI, DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AND I'M PLEASED TO BE HERE IN FRONT OF YOU AND ALSO TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT OUR POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY REPORT. OUR PRESENTATION WILL RUN THROUGH THE REPORT, YOU'LL HEAR SOME WORDS FROM THE COCHAIR ON THE COMMISSION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AND WE WILL HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT WHAT I THINK ARE SOME OF THE POLICY LEVEL ISSUES THAT I HOPE THE BOARD WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE UP AS WE MOVE FORWARD. WE SEE THIS AS A BEGINNING, NOT AN END POINT, BUT A SIGNIFICANT BEGINNING. I WILL TURN IT OVER TO LINDA RIDINGS, COCHAIR ON THE COMMISSION OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITIES, COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY BOARD.

>> THANK YOU, MARY. GOOD MORNING CHAIR KAFOURY AND COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS LINDA RIDINGS, COCHAIR OF COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY. I APOLOGIZE IF I FEEL A LITTLE RATTLED TODAY. I HAVE A CHILD WHO GOES TO AN EAST COUNTY SCHOOL AND IT IS DISHEARTENING. THE COMMISSION IS THE COUNTY'S COMMUNITY

ACTION BOARD, WHICH MEANS THAT WE PROVIDE PLANNING AND POLICY INPUT TO THE COUNTIES ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAMS. WE ALSO ACTIVELY ENGAGE PEOPLE LIVING ON LOW INCOME WITH OUR COMMISSION. I, MYSELF, LIVE ON A LOW INCOME, AND I KNOW HOW VITAL IT IS FOR US TO EDUCATION THE COMMUNITY ON THE IMPACT THAT POVERTY HAS ON PEOPLE'S LIVES. I'M PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY AS PART OF THE TEAM PRESENTING THE 2014 POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY REPORT. YOU WILL HEAR INFORMATION IN THIS REPORT THAT IS VERY CHALLENGING. 33% OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S POPULATION IS EXPERIENCING POVERTY OR NEAR POVERTY IF WE LOOK AT THE 185% OF POVERTY STANDARD. THAT MEANS THAT 240,000 PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR SAFETY NET SERVICES. TO PUT THIS IN PERSPECTIVE, THE POPULATION OF THESE LIVING IN POVERTY OR NEAR POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITY, WOULD, IF COUNTED AS A WHOLE, BE THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN OREGON. ONE IN THREE MULTNOMAH COUNTY RESIDENTS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH INCOME TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS. POPULATIONS OF COLOR ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED AMONG PEOPLE IN POVERTY. EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE OF COLOR MAKE UP ONLY 28% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION, THEY CAN ACCOUNT MORE THAN 44% -- THEY ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 44% OF THOSE IN POVERTY. THE POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS HOW SOME ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO EXPERIENCING POVERTY. SENIORS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITY, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES WITH A SINGLE FEMALE PARENT ARE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO LIVE IN POVERTY THAN OTHER HOUSEHOLDS. WHAT CAN WE DO? I WOULD SAY THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP TO ADDRESSING POVERTY IN OUR COMMUNITY IS TO TAKE ACTION. OUR WORK AROUND THE POVERTY REPORT SHOULD BE GUIDED BY PLANNING PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THIS REPORT AND INVOLVE PEOPLE LIVING ON A LOW INCOME. COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY, IS READY TO SUPPORT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS IN CONVENING A PLANNING APPROACH THAT ENGAGES THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IN ADDRESSING POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. THANK YOU.

>> BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION OF KRIS SMOCK, I WANT TO TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY. ABOUT 14 YEARS AGO, THE THEN COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES -- WE HAD A DIFFERENT NAME, COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION, DID A REPORT ABOUT THE STATE OF POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. AND AT THAT POINT IN TIME, IT WAS CUTTING EDGE IN TERMS OF DATA COLLECTION AND HOW WE LOOKED AT IT. AND ABOUT, OH, NINE MONTHS AGO, STEVE WEIS, ADVOCATE EXTRAORDINAIRE AND MEMBER OF MANY OF OUR COMMISSIONS AND ADVISORY BOARDS --

>> IN OUR AUDIENCE TODAY.

>> IN OUR AUDIENCE TODAY WALKED UP AND HANDED ME THIS REPORT. I WANT TO UPDATE THIS AND REDO THIS. WHEN STEVE TALKS WE LISTEN TO OUR BENEFIT. WE ENGAGED IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE COMMISSION AND SAID, YOU KNOW WHAT, STEVE IS RIGHT. WE NEED TO UPDATE THIS INFORMATION BECAUSE THE FACE AND REALITY OF POVERTY HAS

SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE COUNTY. SO, WE ASKED KRIS TO HELP US WITH DOING THAT. WHAT YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU IS THE RESULT OF HER ANALYTICAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT, AND ALSO A -- A COMMUNITY INFORMED PROCESS OF LOOKING AT THAT DATA AND GIVING FEEDBACK ABOUT LIVED EXPERIENCE. I WILL TALK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THAT IN A MINUTE. WE FEEL LIKE THIS IS THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS IN TERMS OF RESEARCH AND INFORMATION THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO PRESENT TO YOU. AND WHEN KRIS IS DONE, WE WILL TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE OUR NEXT STEP. SO, KRIS SMOCK.

>> THANK YOU. I WILL BEGIN BY PROVIDING DEFINITIONS TO HELP FRAME OUR DISCUSSION ABOUT POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND I WILL OVERVIEW SOME OF THE REPORT'S KEY FINDINGS. BEFORE WE BEGIN TO LOOK AT POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, WE NEED TO DEFINE WHAT WE MEAN BY POVERTY. THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL IS USED TO MEASURE THE OFFICIAL POVERTY RATE BUT METHODOLOGY USED TO SET THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL IS CRITICIZED FOR UNDERCOUNTING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY. CURRENT FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, \$24,000 FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR. MOST OF THE INFORMATION IN THE REPORT BASED ON THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE DATA FOR. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THAT IS THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. MANY PEOPLE CAN'T MAKE ENDS MEET WHO AREN'T INCLUDED IN THIS DEFINITION OF POVERTY. SELF-SUFFICIENCY STANDARD -- FOR EXAMPLE, THE SELF SUFFICIENCY STANDARD, FAMILY OF FOUR, INFANT AND PRESCHOOLER, \$65,000. 2 1/2 TIMES THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. THE UNITED NATIONS OFFERS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE DEFINITION OF POVERTY, FRAMING IT WITHIN A HUMAN RIGHTS LENS. ACCORDING TO THIS DEFINITION, POVERTY IS THE DEPRIVATION OF THE MATERIAL, SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL RESOURCES NEEDED TO THRIVE, DEVELOP, AND THRIVE -- SO, UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE ANY DATA THAT TELL US HOW MANY PEOPLE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY MEET THIS DEFINITION, BUT THIS BROADER FRAMING OF POVERTY UNDERLIES A LOT OF THE ANALYSIS IN THE REPORT. THE POPULATION IN POVERTY IS DIVERSE AND WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF POVERTY TO TAILOR OUR SOLUTIONS TO MEET THE DISTINCT NEEDS OF DIFFERENT POPULATIONS. LONG TERM POVERTY, PERSISTENT, ONGOING, AFFECTS SENIORS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND OTHER -- OPTIONS FOR EXITING POVERTY LIMITED. SITUATIONAL POVERTY, TEMPORARY, EPISODIC, A SUDDEN OR UNEXPECTED PERSONAL OR ECONOMIC CRISIS. ECONOMIC POVERTY -- WAGES AND BENEFITS NOT SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE HOUSEHOLD'S BASIC NEEDS AND SOCIAL POVERTY OCCURS WHEN INDIVIDUALS, SOCIETAL OR INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS PREVENT PEOPLE FROM ACCESSING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES OR FULLY PARTICIPATING IN SOCIETY. HOW MANY PEOPLE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY ARE LIVING IN POVERTY? THIS SLIDE PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF THE TOTAL POPULATION AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF POVERTY. APPROXIMATELY 36% OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS FALL BELOW THE SELF SUFFICIENCY STANDARD, AND WITHIN THIS POPULATION, 7% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION IS LIVING IN DEEP POVERTY, INCOMES BELOW

50% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. 17% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION IS BELOW 100% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, AND 33% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION IS BELOW 185% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, WHICH IS THE ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD FOR MANY GOVERNMENT SAFETY NET PROGRAMS. POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY HAS GROWN OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES. THE COUNTY'S TOTAL POPULATION GREW 26%. FROM 1990 TO 2010, BUT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE BELOW POVERTY GREW AT MORE THAN TWICE THAT RATE. AND THE GREATEST GROWTH WAS IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE BELOW 100% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL AS YOU CAN SEE IN THE CHART. THERE WAS SIGNIFICANT GROWTH AT ALL LEVELS OF POVERTY. GROWTH IN POVERTY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO SEVERAL FACTORS RELATED TO THE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL SAFETY NET. RECESSION ELIMINATED MIDDLE WAGE JOBS, REPLACED BY LOWER PAYING JOBS THAT DON'T PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKERS WITHOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE TO EARN A FAMILY WAGE. OVERALL DECLINE WAGES THAT WORKERS WITHOUT A COLLEGE DEGREE CAN EARN, AND ACCOMPANIED BY HIGH RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT. CUTS TO SAFETY NET PROGRAMS, CHILD CARE, TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDIES, MORE DIFFICULT FOR LOW-WAGE WORKERS TO STAY OUT OF POVERTY AND INCOME SUBSIDIES INTENDED TO LIFT POOR HOUSE OLD -- HOUSEHOLDS OUT OF POVERTY -- DEMOGRAPHICS OF POVERTY IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, DISPARITIES -- INCLUDE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS, WOMEN, CHILDREN, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. THE NEXT FEW SLIDES HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THESE DISPARITIES. COMMUNITIES OF COLOR REPRESENT 28% OF THE OVERALL POPULATION OF THE COUNTY, BUT THEY REPRESENT 44% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION IN POVERTY. WHILE 17% OF THE OVERALL POPULATION OF THE COUNTY IS IN POVERTY, 26% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION OF COLOR ARE IN POVERTY. AND POVERTY AMONG COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IS GROWING. THIS CHART SHOWS THE GROWTH OF POPULATIONS OF COLOR IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES IN YELLOW. AND THE GROSS POPULATIONS OF COLOR IN POVERTY IN GRAY. STRIKING IF WE LOOK AT THE CHANGES BETWEEN 2000 AND 2010. POPULATIONS OF -- TWICE THE RATE OF THE OVERALL GROWTH OF POPULATIONS OF COLOR IN THE COUNTY. SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN ARE FAR MORE LIKELY TO BE IN POVERTY THAN ANY OTHER FAMILY TYPE. WHILE 12% OF ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE IN POVERTY, 42% OF SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE IN POVERTY COMPARED WITH NINE PERCENT OF TWO-PARENT FAMILIES. CHILDREN ARE ALSO OVER-REPRESENTED IN THE COUNTY'S POPULATION IN POVERTY. CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 MAKE UP 21% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION, BUT THEY MAKE UP 28% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION IN POVERTY. AND WHEREAS 17% OF THE COUNTY'S OVERALL POPULATION IS IN POVERTY, 23% OF THE COUNTY'S CHILDREN ARE IN POVERTY. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 12% OF THE COUNTY'S OVERALL POPULATION, BUT 19% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION IN POVERTY. 17% OF THE COUNTY'S OVERALL POPULATION IS IN POVERTY, 27% OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ARE IN POVERTY. WHILE POVERTY EXISTS IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTY, THE RATES OF POVERTY ARE HIGHER IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE COUNTY THAN OTHERS. OUTER EAST PORTLAND, HIGHEST POVERTY

RATE WITH ALMOST ONE QUARTER OF RESIDENTS IN POVERTY. THIS IS FOLLOWED BY EAST COUNTY, NORTH, NORTHEAST PORTLAND, AND SOUTHEAST PORTLAND, EACH WITH 17 TO 18% OF THEIR RESIDENTS IN POVERTY. WEST PORTLAND, CENTRAL EAST PORTLAND, LOWEST RATES, BUT EVEN THOSE AREAS HAVE 13% OF THEIR RESIDENTS IN POVERTY. THIS MAP SHOWS THE PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS BELOW POVERTY BY CENSUS TRACK. THE DARKER THE COLOR, THE HIGHER THE POVERTY LEVEL. CENSUS TRACKS WITH THE HIGHEST POVERTY RATES ARE PRIMARILY LOCATED ON PORTLAND'S EAST SIDE AND GRESHAM. THIS MAP SHOWS THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH AT EACH OF THE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WHICH IS A PROXY FOR POVERTY. THE DARKER THE COLOR, THE HIGHER THE PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN POVERTY. HIGH POVERTY SCHOOLS EXIST IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTY, BUT ARE CONCENTRATED IN NORTH AND NORTHEAST PORTLAND AND EAST OF I-205. THIS MAP SHOWS THE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATIONS OF COLOR ACROSS THE COUNTY. THE DARKER THE COLOR, HIGHER THE PERCENTAGE OF POPULATIONS OF COLOR AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OF EACH CENSUS TRACK. PEOPLE OF COLOR DISPROPORTIONALLY LIKELY TO BE IN --

>> THIS MAP SHOWS THE PERCENT CHANGE IN HOUSEHOLD IN POVERTY FROM 2000 TO 2010. THE BLUE AREAS HAD A DECLINE IN POPULATIONS IN POVERTY. YELLOW AREAS STAYED BASICALLY THE SAME OR HAD A SLIGHT INCREASE. ORANGE AREAS, A MODERATE INCREASE, AND RED AREAS THE LARGEST INCREASES. AREAS WITH THE GREATEST INCREASES IN POVERTY TEND TO BE EAST OF I-205. THE SHIFTING GEOGRAPHY OF POVERTY HAS MEANT THAT MORE AND MORE PEOPLE IN POVERTY, INCREASING NUMBERS OF PEOPLE IN COLOR, LIVING IN AREAS OF THE COUNTY THAT ARE NOT WELL EQUIPPED TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. AREAS OF THE COUNTY WITH THE HIGHEST POVERTY RATES HIGHER LEVELS OF ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES, QUALITY EDUCATION, FOOD, PARKS, TRANSIT, FAMILY-WAGE JOBS AND TEND TO HAVE HIGHER RATES OF HEALTH PROBLEMS. NEXT THREE SLIDES OFFER A FEW EXAMPLES. TRANSIT ACCESS TO FAMILY-WAGE JOBS. DARK BROWN AREAS HAVE HIGH ACCESS. ORANGE AND YELLOW AREAS, MEDIUM ACCESS, AND BLUE AND GREEN AREAS LOW ACCESS. YOU CAN SEE ACCESS IS BEST IN AREAS CLOSEST TO DOWNTOWN PORTLAND AND WORST IN AREAS OUTER EAST PORTLAND AND EAST COUNTY. THIS MAP SHOWS AVERAGE TEACHER EXPERIENCE IN EACH OF THE COUNTY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS, A PROXY FOR EDUCATIONAL QUALITY. THE DARK RED DOTS REPRESENT SCHOOLS WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF TEACHER EXPERIENCE. THE ORANGE DOTS, REPRESENT SCHOOLS WITH MEDIUM LEVELS, AND YELLOW DOTS REPRESENT SCHOOLS WITH THE LOWEST LEVELS OF TEACHER EXPERIENCE. THE AREAS IN NORTH AND NORTHEAST PORTLAND, OUTER EAST PORTLAND, EAST COUNTIES THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST RATES OF POVERTY TEND TO HAVE MORE SCHOOLS WITH LOWER LEVELS OF TEACHER EXPERIENCE. THIS IS A MAP OF DIABETES RATES. ALMOST ALL OF THE AREAS WITH THE HIGHEST DIABETES RATES, NORTH PORTLAND OR EAST OF I-205. WHILE ALMOST ALL OF THE WEST SIDE AND INNER EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE LOWER RATES OF DIABETES. THIS

SLIDE OFFERS JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE DEVASTATING IMPACTS OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S HIGH POVERTY RATES FOR THE PEOPLE EXPERIENCING POVERTY AND FOR THE BROADER COMMUNITY. MORE THAN 15,000 PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS OR DOUBLED UP IN A COUNTY EACH NIGHT. 17% OF THE COUNTY'S POPULATION IS FOOD INSECURE. THE COUNTY'S HIGH POVERTY NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE THE HIGHEST MORTALITY RATES FROM CANCER AND HEART DISEASE. AND RESEARCH SHOWS THAT GROWING UP IN POVERTY CAN HAVE A LIFE-LONG IMPACT ON CHILDREN'S PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. THE PICTURE PAINTED BY THE REPORT IS QUITE SOBERING, BUT PROVIDES WITH US INFORMATION WE NEED TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES. PROGRAMS HERE AND ELSEWHERE WORKING EFFECTIVELY TO ADDRESS POVERTY BUT WE JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO BRING THE PROGRAMS TO SCALE. REPORT PROFILES FOUR PROGRAMS THAT ARE ACHIEVING IMPRESSIVE RESULTS, THREE SPONSORED BY MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND ONE THAT IS NATIONAL AND COULD BE REPLICATED HERE. ACTION FOR PROSPERITY, HOUSING, WORK FORCE TRAINING, LIFE SKILLS BUILDING AND FLEXIBILITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, WORK SYSTEMS INC, AND HOME FORWARD, PROGRAM'S PILOT PROJECT SERVED 287 FAMILIES AND 12 MONTHS AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM, 82% OF PARTICIPANTS WERE STABLY HOUSED AND 61% EMPLOYED. FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM, CASE MANAGEMENT, HOUSING SUPPORT, EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE, FLEXIBLE DOLLARS TO CULTURALLY SPECIFIC HOUSEHOLDS IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, LACK OF STABLE HOUSING IS A BARRIER TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION -- 62 CLIENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE PROGRAM'S PILOT PROJECT. 18 MONTHS, 96% STABLE HOUSING. 87% CUSTODY OF AT LEAST ONE CHILD. HOMELESS BENEFITS RECOVERY PROGRAM, FUNDED BY MULTNOMAH COUNTY, AND THE BEST PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE CITY OF PORTLAND, HELPS PEOPLE SECURE FEDERAL INCOME SUPPORT FOR WHICH THEY'RE ELIGIBLE. PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ARE MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE APPROVED FOR BENEFITS THAN THOSE WHO APPLY WITHOUT THE PROGRAM'S SUPPORT. AND THIS RESULTS IN SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN PARTICIPANT'S MONTHLY INCOMES. AND FINALLY, THE FAMILY INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE IS AN OAKLAND-BASED PROGRAM REPLICATED IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IT PROVIDES FAMILIES WITH ACCESS TO FINANCIAL CAPITAL AND SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS TO SUPPORT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY. PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ARE ABLE TO INCREASE THEIR EARNINGS AND SAVINGS AND MANY START SMALL BUSINESSES, PAY DOWN DEBTS, PURCHASE HOMES. MULTNOMAH COUNTY IS REALLY AT A CRITICAL CROSSROADS. THE COUNTY NEEDS TO TAKE BOLD ACTION TO DEVELOP A VISION FOR ADDRESSING GROWING POVERTY AND INCOME INEQUALITY, AND A COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN FOR GETTING THERE. THE PLAN SHOULD BUILD ON DATA PROVIDED IN THE REPORT AND GUIDED BY THE SIX PRINCIPLES LISTED HERE. FIRST, ELIMINATE INEQUITIES AFFECTING PEOPLE OF COLOR, IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, WOMEN, CHILDREN, SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. SECOND, TAILOR SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO MEET THE DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS AND NEEDS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF POVERTY, DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS AND GEOGRAPHIC

AREAS. THIRD, BUILD A HUMAN CAPITAL OF THE COUNTY'S RESIDENTS BY PROVIDING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND TRAINING AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASING INCOME AND FINANCIAL ASSETS. FOURTH, SECURE THE COUNTY'S FUTURE BY INVESTING IN THE WELL BEING AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH. 5th, INVEST IN SERVICES AND SUPPORTS THAT -- THE EXPERIENCE OF POVERTY AND STRUCTURAL AND POLICY ACTIONS THAT SEEK TO END THE CONDITIONS THAT CAUSE POVERTY. AND 6, PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS AND STRATEGIC -- NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, FAITH COMMUNITY, AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

>> THANK YOU, KRIS. I WANT TO SHARE A FEW THOUGHTS THAT I THINK ARE SPECIFIC TO WHAT DO WE DO WITH THIS DATA AND THEN WE ARE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OR QUESTIONS THAT THE BOARD MAY HAVE. SO, A COUPLE OF THINGS THAT ARE MY TAKE-AWAYS FROM THIS INFORMATION AND HAVING BEEN THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE COMMISSION AND WITH KRIS, ONE IS THAT -- AND, AGAIN, I DON'T THINK IT IS ANYTHING EARTH-SHATTERING, BUT POVERTY TOUCHES EVERYTHING. AND WHEN WE LOOK AT SINGLE SYSTEMS OF CARE OR SINGLE POPULATIONS OR SINGLE ARENAS, WE ARE MISSING A CRITICAL OPPORTUNITY THAT LOOKS AT THE INTERSECTION. THERE IS A LAYERING AND A CAPACITY EFFECT THAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ARE A SINGLE-HEADED HOUSEHOLD. WHEN YOU HAVE CHILDREN. WHEN YOU ARE A PERSON OF COLOR. WHEN YOU ARE -- YOU KNOW, IT IS CHICKEN AND EGG, DO YOU HAVE THE HEALTH DISPARITIES FIRST OR THE HEALTH DISPARITIES AFTER YOU LIVED IN POVERTY AND HAD THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS. FROM THE COUNTY'S PERSPECTIVE, WE HAVE TO HOLD THE COMPLEXITY OF ALL OF THOSE INTERSECTIONS AT A SYSTEM LEVEL BECAUSE IT'S VERY EASY FOR US TO FOCUS ON THE REALLY GOOD WORK WE DO ACROSS THE COUNTY, IN SPECIFIC AREAS. WE CAN LOOK AT HEALTH INEQUITY AND HEALTH DISPARITIES. WE CAN LOOK AT ACCESS TO FOOD AND NUTRITION THROUGH OUR EFFORTS. WE CAN LOOK AT THE INCOME SUPPORTS THROUGH SOME OF THE PROGRAMS THAT KRIS TALKED ABOUT. BUT WITHOUT A UNIFYING SINGLE FRAME IN WHICH TO HOLD ALL OF OUR WORK, WE'RE LOSING AN OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE THAT WE NEED TO BE ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY. AND I FEEL LIKE THAT IS OUR CHARGE IN SOME WAYS TO GET UP OUT OF THE PROGRAMS AND TALK ABOUT WHAT IS THE COUNTY'S OVERALL THEORY OF CHANGE FROM WHAT OUR WORK WILL ACCOMPLISH. FOR INSTANCE, WHAT ARE OUR GOALS AS A COUNTY ACROSS ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS? FORMER CHAIR USED TO SAY, WE'RE THE NEEDY AND THE NAUGHTY. IF THAT IS THE FOCUS OF OUR PROGRAMS, WHAT IS THE ORGANIZING GOAL ACROSS ALL OF THOSE PROGRAMS, NOT JUST IN MY DIVISION OR THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES, BUT THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SHERIFF'S OFFICE, COMMUNITY JUSTICE, ETC., ETC. WHO DO YOU WE MEASURE OUR WORK? NOT AGAIN IN SINGLE PROGRAMS, BUT ACROSS ALL OF THOSE PROGRAMS. WE HAVE TO CONTINUE OUR WORK ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC JUSTICE. CLEAR AND PERVASIVE EVIDENCE, NOT ONLY THE MORAL THING TO DO BUT THE MOST EFFECTIVE AND SMART THING TO DO. THE REPORT WE JUST HEARD FROM THE SLAVIC COMMUNITIES AND ALL OF THE OTHER REPORTS WE HEARD FROM THE

COALITION SIMPLY RE-ENFORCE THIS. THERE IS MORE FOR US TO DO AS A COUNTY IN TERMS OF HOW WE IDENTIFY OUR GOALS AROUND THAT. YOU WILL NOTICE THAT THERE IS NO ACTION IN THIS REPORT. AND THAT FOR ME IS A LITTLE BIT OF A HARD THING, BECAUSE I'M GENERALLY ORIENTED, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS? WE PURPOSELY WANTED TO PUT THE INFORMATION OUT THERE SO THAT WE ALL GET TO THE SAME PAGE AS A STARTING POINT. AND THEN TOGETHER HAVING COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE DATA SAYS AND CALLS OUT TO US BEGIN THAT CONVERSATION OF WHAT DOES STRATEGIC ACTION LOOK LIKE AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALL SEE A PATHWAY TO CHARGING A GROUP OF FOLKS TO COME TOGETHER AND COME BACK TO YOU WITH A VERY BROAD-BASED ACTION-BASED PLAN THAT WE CAN IMMEDIATELY GO INTO IMPLEMENTATION. WE DON'T WANT TO DO 10 MONTHS OF PLANNING AND PROCESSING. THERE ARE SOME CLEAR LINES HERE THAT I THINK WE CAN IMMEDIATELY TAKE ACTION ON, BUT WE DIDN'T WANT TO PROPOSE THAT ACTION OUTSIDE OF ALL OF US HAVING THE SAME LEVEL OF INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE REALITY OF POVERTY IN THE COUNTY. AND THEN, FINALLY, I THINK THERE IS A LEADERSHIP PIECE FOR US ALL AS THE COUNTY. THIS FEELS OVERWHELMING. IT FEELS OVERWHELMING TO THE COMMUNITY. IT FEELS LIKE WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THIS. AND IT IS JUST NOT TRUE. WE KNOW WHAT WORKS. WE HAVE EXAMPLES HERE IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY AND OTHER COMMUNITIES SIMILAR TO OURS, AND WE REALLY COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND MAKE A DENT AT A SYSTEMS LEVEL IN ADD -- ADDITION TO THE SERVICE LEVEL WORK WE'RE DOING THAT IS QUITE GOOD ACROSS THE DEPARTMENTS. FINALLY I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLKS WHO MADE THIS HAPPEN, IN ADDITION TO STEVE, THE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY, AND A NUMBER OF THEM ARE HERE AND IF THEY COULD STAND UP AND BE ACKNOWLEDGED, THAT WOULD BE LOVELY. [APPLAUSE]

>> AS PART OF OUR COMMUNITY-INFORMED RESEARCH PROCESS, WE HAD SIGNIFICANT INTERACTION WITH A NUMBER OF KEY FOLKS FROM OUR FAITH COMMUNITIES, PAUL SCHROEDER, NEW CITIES INITIATIVE. JULIA MEYER, AND ELDERS IN ACTION AND THEIR DISABILITY ACTION COMMITTEE WERE ALL SIGNIFICANT FIRST READERS, EDITORS, FEEDBACK LOOP. YOU DIDN'T GET THIS RIGHT. LET'S LOOK AT THIS. AND THEN FINALLY I WANT TO THANK JANET HAWKINS, FOR WHOM WITHOUT WHICH WE WOULD NOT SEE THIS REPORT AND THE WORK WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED. WE BELIEVE THAT WHILE HEAVY AND DENSE AND A LOT OF INFORMATION HERE, THERE ABSOLUTELY IS A GOOD PATH AND FRAME HERE FOR US TO TAKE ACTION ON. AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR TO CONTINUING TO BE ENGAGED WITH YOU AND THE COMMUNITY ABOUT A LARGER GAME PLAN AND STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN FOR THE COUNTY AS A WHOLE AS WE MOVE FORWARD ON THIS ISSUE.

>> QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD?

>> Comm. Smith: I JUST HAVE A COMMENT. I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR COMING THIS MORNING AND GIVING US THESE EGREGIOUS REPORTS, AND AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, I DO AGREE WITH SOME OF THE DATA, AND I THINK

THAT THE BOARD IN THIS LAST SESSION WE SHOW THAT WE WERE REALLY COMMITTED TO THIS, PARTICULARLY WITH SUPPORTING THE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN. AND I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO, IF WE'RE PUTTING THAT GROUP TOGETHER, MARY LI, I WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF IT. I THINK WE COULD DO MORE IF WE HAD A FRAMEWORK. INSTEAD OF ONE DEPARTMENT DOING SOMETHING HERE, IT IS NOT A COORDINATED EFFORT, BUT THAT WE KNOW HOW WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO DEAL AND TACKLE SOME OF THESE INEQUITIES. THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIR. JUST A COMMENT, REALLY. THANK YOU FOR ALL OF THE WORK THAT YOU'VE PUT INTO THIS. THIS IS A SOBERING REPORT THAT CONFIRMS AND AMPLIFIES, I THINK, THINGS THAT WE KNEW AND SHEDS LIGHT ON SOME NEW THINGS AS WELL THAT ARE DEEPLY CONCERNING. I WOULD COMMENT IN SEVERAL OF THE SLIDES THAT YOU PRESENTED, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO THE PROXIES FOR POVERTY, CLEAR NOT ONLY ARE THERE CONCENTRATIONS OF POVERTY IN PARTICULARLY SPECIFIC AREAS OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY, BUT THE PROXIES THAT INDICATE CONTINUING POVERTY ARE ALSO PRESENT IN THOSE AREAS. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DIABETES RATES OR LACK OF TEACHER TRAINING OR ANY OF THOSE OTHERS YOU PRESENTED. I THINK THAT IS AN IMPORTANT FLAG FOR US, THAT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT SOLVING POVERTY TODAY. BUT IT IS ABOUT SOLVING POVERTY TOMORROW IN THOSE PLACES BECAUSE THE SEEDS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SOWN FOR CONTINUING POVERTY. IF WE'RE NOT AWARE OF BOTH TODAY'S IMPACTS AND TOMORROW'S IMPACTS, WE MIGHT BE MISSING THE WHOLE STORY. I APPRECIATE YOU SHEDDING LIGHT ON THAT.

>> THANK YOU, AND THANK YOU, STEVE, FOR PUTTING THE WHEELS INTO MOTION FOR THIS REPORT TO COME FORWARD. I THINK THIS IS THE REASON THAT WE'RE ALL HERE. IT REALLY IS GOING TO TAKE THE FOCUS OF THIS BOARD AND THE FOCUS OF ALL OF THE AMAZING STAFF THAT WORK AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND ALL OF OUR PARTNERS THAT KRIS TALKED ABOUT TO MOVE THE NEEDLE. WE HAVE TO DO IT. IF WE DON'T TAKE THE LEAD ON THIS NOBODY ELSE IS GOING TO DO IT. THIS IS OUR JOB AND WHY WE ARE HERE. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUE THE INFORMATION. MARY LI YOU MAKE ME HAPPY WHEN I HEAR YOU SAY WE DON'T WANT TO STUDY THIS FOR 10 MONTHS OR A YEAR OR TWO YEARS. WE KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO GET THINGS DONE WE JUST HAVE TO HAVE THE INTENTIONALITY TO DO THIS. I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THIS SOONER RATHER THAN LATER TO GET THE BALL ROLLING. THANK YOU.

>> WORKING WITH BOTH OUR CURRENT AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS ON THIS AND OUR COMMUNITY. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: GREAT. THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. SEEING THAT THERE IS NOBODY ELSE TO TESTIFY, I WANT TO THANK YOU AGAIN FOR PRESENTING THIS MORNING AND THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. AND WE ARE ADJOURNED. [GAVEL]

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

This transcript was prepared by LNS Captioning and edited by the Board Clerk's office.
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Submitted by:

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Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County