

**Talking Points Given at the
14th Annual Public Health Heroes Celebration
By the Multnomah County Health Department and
Board of Commissioners
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Room 100, Portland, OR 97214
April 8, 2014**

Acting Chair Marissa Madrigal called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. with Commissioners Judy Shiprack, Liesl Wendt, Loretta Smith and Vice-Chair Diane McKeel present.

Also attending were Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk; and, Joanne Fuller, Director and Jaimee Mayfield – Health Department.

Introduction – Director Joanne Fuller

Good Morning and welcome to the 14th Annual Public Health Heroes Celebration.

Since 1995, public health communities across the country have celebrated National Public Health Week. Former President Bill Clinton proclaimed the first full week of April as National Public Health Week to encourage community members, private and non-profit organizations and government agencies, at all levels, to help build healthier communities and increase awareness of important public health issues.

Multnomah County Health Department acknowledges and celebrates the fact that countless individuals and organizations work daily to make their lives better and to enable the Health Department achieve our mission of *Healthy People in Healthy Communities*.

This year, the National Public Health Week theme is, Public Health – Start Here. From maternal health and school nutrition to emergency preparedness, public health starts at home. Each year, National Public Health Week provides an opportunity for public health and clinical health professionals to work with clients and communities throughout the United States. This opportunity helps individuals and families navigate and learn about the many changes and available resources in our public health system to achieve and maintain their health.

Before we honor our 2014 Public Health Heroes, please welcome Chair Madrigal as she would like to say a few words.

Welcome – Chair Marissa Madrigal

Good Morning everyone and thank you for coming out to celebrate not only our Public Health Heroes, but also to acknowledge the work that all of you do to help improve the health and well-being of residents in our community.

At this time, I would like to specifically recognize the numerous organizations and

individuals who were nominated for their dedication and commitment toward public health. This year, we had 60 nominees who are all working to promote public health in one way or another and can all be called public health champions. Each one deserves a thank you for the time and commitment they've shown in helping to improve the health of our community.

All nominees are listed in the back of your program, and some of them are here with us today. Could I have the nominees in the audience please stand so you can be acknowledged?

After an extensive review process it is with great honor that we recognize the Public Health Heroes of 2014. Commissioner Wendt will present the Public Health Partner Award.

Commissioner Liesl Wendt - Public Health Partner Award

This award is given to an outstanding organization whose partnership with Multnomah County Health Department helps to influence policy solutions that improves the public health environment for all members of the community.

Since 1968, Outside In has helped homeless youth and other marginalized people move toward improved health and self-sufficiency. Outside In has continually revised their Homeless Youth Services and Medical Services to meet changing community needs.

Last year, Multnomah County Health Department partnered with Outside In to pass a state bill that would increase community access to naloxone; a medication that reverses opiate overdose. The bill became effective the morning of July 9, 2013 and by that afternoon, Outside In was training and distributing naloxone to its syringe exchange clients. After only seven months in operation, Outside In has trained more than 565 people who have reported reversing 165 overdoses. The number of opiate overdose deaths decreased by almost 25% in 2013 after Outside In began distributing naloxone, compared to the same time period in the year before.

Since starting a naloxone program, Outside In has received requests from several other community-based organizations to train their staff, including agencies providing substance abuse treatment and emergency housing. The program also has staff on-site to enroll their clients in Cover Oregon's health insurance exchange and provide HIV and Hepatitis C testing.

Accepting the Public Health Partner Award on behalf of Outside In is Executive Director, Dr. Kathy Oliver.

Commissioner Loretta Smith - The Katie Jeans- Gail Award for Young Heroes

The Katie Jeans-Gail Award for Young Heroes is presented to a youth or youth-related group who inspires or promotes other young people to make healthy lifestyle choices.

This year, the Katie Jeans-Gail Award for Young Heroes goes to the Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program, a local nonprofit, which was established to bring the passion of golf to youth who could not afford to play. What started as a group of six children has grown to include a roster of more than 150 children.

In 1928, Mr. Vernon Gaskins arrived in Portland, OR and became employed with Columbia Edgewater Country Club. While his enthusiasm and love for golf stretched beyond his duties with Columbia Edgewater Country Club, his ability to play did not as he was faced with racism and segregation at the Portland golf courses. Mr. Gaskins's dream of creating an atmosphere for minorities to enjoy the game of golf, encourage youth participation and become a voice for African-Americans in the greater Portland community came to fruition in 1947 through the formation of the Leisure Hour Golf Program and in 1978 with the Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program.

Since its creation, the Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program continues to offer fundamental golf lessons, tournament play, transportation and academic support to youth in Portland, OR and Vancouver, WA. The program provides a chance to foster physical activity as a healthy lifestyle choice through the game of golf. With more than 40 parents and mentor volunteers the program is able to focus on another key component; giving back to the community. Each year, the program takes part in local activities such as community fundraisers, marching in the Good in the Neighborhood Parade and adopting two to three families in need, during the Christmas holidays. Rain or shine, Leisure Hour Jr. Golfers are ready to tee it up!

Accepting the Katie Jeans-Gail Award for Young Heroes on behalf of the Leisure Hour Jr. Golf Program is President, Debra Ingram.

Commissioner Judy Shiprack - The Social and Equity Justice Award

This award is presented to a leader or organization that is dedicated to promoting health and fighting for social and racial justice through the services they provide.

The Future Generations Collaborative (FGC) is an innovative partnership among American Indian and Alaska Native community members, community-based organizations, and public health agencies to increase healthy pregnancies and healthy births, and strengthen families in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Since the project began in 2011, FGC has recruited and trained 18 community members including Elders and what are called "Natural Helpers". The Elders and Natural Helpers recruit, facilitate and solicit community input and lead the work of the FGC. To date, these leaders have organized eight community forums and built robust

community partnerships with seven Native-serving organizations and government agencies. The FGC has participated in extensive outreach to the Native community through pow wows and cultural gatherings. This past January, the FGC hosted its first regional Gathering of Native Americans, which drew nearly 200 people. The Gathering drew upon the wisdom of Native people to promote healing for all community members and establish the basis for a community action plan to reduce substance-exposed pregnancies.

The FGC continues to establish itself as a voice for Native families in Multnomah County. This work takes a long-term commitment and a lot of heart and humility. With continued attention toward building healthy partnerships, developing Native leadership and telling the stories of Native people, the FGC expects to see lasting improvements in the health of Multnomah County's Native families.

I am pleased to present the Social and Equity Justice Award to the Elders and Natural Helpers of the Future Generations Collaborative.

Commissioner Diane McKeel - The Multnomah County Employee Award

Each day, Multnomah County employees work tirelessly to serve the community and provide quality care and service. This award is presented to a current Multnomah County employee who truly demonstrates outstanding service to the public.

Alison is currently the lead social worker for the Tri-County 911 Service Coordination Program; a program targeted to residents of Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties who use emergency medical services frequently. She and her awesome team work to connect clients to the right care in the right place. Through hard work, innovation, and collaborative partnerships, preliminary findings suggest the Tri-County 911 Service Coordination Program has decreased Emergency Medical Services responses among clients by 40% in just the first year.

Alison has been a practicing social worker for more than twenty years, focusing on the LGBTQQI community, injection drug-users, people living with HIV and Hepatitis C, and those involved in criminal justice systems in both South Florida and Portland, OR. Alison's early career was spent as a geriatric case manager, HIV case manager, mental health provider to LGBTQQI youth, and contract manager for the State of FL/Bureau of HIV/AIDS. Upon moving to Portland, Alison worked as the Manager of HIV Prevention and Education Services at Cascade AIDS Project before coming to work for the Multnomah County Health Department in 2001.

Alison has always enjoyed the creativity of project development and being on the cutting edge of health innovation. Before moving to Emergency Medical Services, Alison worked with Mercy Corps Northwest and the Department of Corrections to design and implement health and wellness skill-building into an existing micro-enterprise curriculum delivered to incarcerated women at Coffee Creek Correctional Institution.

“Her commitment to serve the most vulnerable in our community is commendable. She brings a passionate and ever-caring perspective to her work. Alison also goes above and beyond, never missing a deadline and always taking her work to a level above and beyond what is required,” says a fellow coworker.

In her spare time, Alison loves being among the trees, at the beach and spending time with her family and good friends.

I am pleased to present the Multnomah County Employee award to Alison Goldstein.

Closing Remarks – Director Joanne Fuller

Thank you again and congratulations to all of the 2014 Public Health Hero winners. Your work is an inspiring example to all of us in our continuing mission for *healthy people in healthy communities*.

This is the end of the formal program. At this time, we would like all Public Health Hero winners to come back up for a group photo with the Chair and Commissioners. Also, please join us for a lunch reception during this time and thank you for attending the 14th Annual Public Health Hero Celebration!

ADJOURNMENT – Chair Madrigal

Thank you again. We are adjourned.

These talking points were prepared ahead of time and were given at the time of the Ceremony. For access to the video and/or presentation materials, please view at: http://multnomah.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3

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