

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2018-013

Proclaiming February 7, 2018 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. February 7, 2018, is the fifteenth year that National **Black** HIV/AIDS Awareness Day has been commemorated. Observance of this day is a nationwide effort to mobilize **Black** communities to get educated, get tested, get involved and get treated.
- B. African Americans are the racial/ethnic group most affected by HIV in the United States. Blacks/African Americans account for a higher proportion of new HIV diagnoses, those living with HIV, and those ever diagnosed with AIDS, compared to other races/ethnicities. In 2015, African Americans accounted for 45% of HIV diagnoses, though they comprise 12% of the US population.
- C. In Oregon, Blacks/African Americans are more than three times more likely than whites to acquire HIV infection. The rates of Black males acquiring HIV infection is 2.9 times greater than White men; the rates for **Black** women is 12.1 times greater than White women.
- D. It has been found that viral suppression among Black MSM is significantly lower (61.2%) than rest of the clinic population (86.9%). This warrants targeted interventions such as intensive onboarding, use of culturally specific navigation services and client advisory participation. In response to this health disparity, the HIV Health Services Center, STD/HIV/HCV and HCS Services continue to embrace strategies to address the health disparities for our Black or African American residents of Multnomah County living with HIV.
- E. The African American AIDS Awareness Action Alliance (A6) and its member agencies including Cascade AIDS Project, Multnomah County Health Department, the Oregon Health Authority HIV Prevention Program, Planned Parenthood of the Columbia Willamette, the Portland Chapter of the LINKS, Inc., and the Albina Ministerial Alliance are working together to increase HIV/AIDS awareness in the African American community and recognize this day and its importance to all concerned citizens.
- F. It is fitting that we join with these local, national and international groups to express our strong support for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and the initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in **Black** communities and provide access to and utilization of HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support services to those affected by HIV/AIDS. It is important to encourage local residents to strongly support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. February 7, 2018 as National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

ADOPTED this 8th day of February, 2018.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By: 

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2