



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(revised 12/31/09)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date:	4/26/11
Agenda Item #:	B.1
Est. Start Time:	10:00 am
Date Submitted:	4/11/11

Agenda Title: Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date:	Revised to 4/26/11	Amount of Time Needed:	1 hour
Department:	Health	Division:	Health & Social Justice, Office of the Director
Contact(s):	Sandy Johnson		
Phone:	503-988-3663	Ext.	28790
I/O Address:	160/9		
Presenter(s):	Sandy Johnson, Office of Health and Social Justice, Manager, Kim Toevs, STD/HIV/HepC Community Programs and Cornetta Smith, Healthy Birth Initiative		

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

This presentation will provide an update to the 2008 report on racial and ethnic health disparities in Multnomah County so that the Board will have the most recent available information.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Despite overall improvement in health over the past sixty years, populations of color continue to experience significantly worse health outcomes than the White-non-Hispanic population. This has been especially pronounced in the African American Community which has experienced the worst health outcomes of all groups of color. This presentation will examine Multnomah County's progress and challenges in addressing racial and ethnic health disparities and explore some of the underlying causes of health inequities.

Health disparities impose cost burdens on individuals, other purchasers of health insurance, and public programs. The estimated 2009 nationwide cost of health disparities was \$23.9 billion. If African Americans and Hispanics experienced the same burden of disease as white Americans the savings nationally would be \$23.9 billion. Medicare alone spent an extra \$15.6 billion and private insurers an additional \$5.1 billion due to higher rates of

chronic illness among African Americans and Hispanics.¹

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

Not applicable – briefing only.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Not applicable.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The 2010 Health Disparities presentation is based on recently released Multnomah County birth and death records and reportable diseases. Community input from the health equity dialogues that were conducted with over 500 Multnomah County residents in 2008-09 will provide context for the data presented.

Required Signature

**Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:**

Lillian Shirley

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Date: 01-04-10

¹ Timothy Waldmann (2009). Estimating the cost of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. *The Urban Institute*.