

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

PROCLAMATION NO.

Proclaiming April 2013 National Minority Health Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In April 2001, the National Minority Health Month Foundation launched National Minority Health Month. Congress demonstrated their support in 2002 with a concurrent resolution. The goal of this month is to strengthen the capacity of communities of color to eliminate the disproportionate experience of premature death and preventable disease through prevention, early detection and control of disease complications. In Multnomah County, it is a time to recognize health disparities and commit to implementing strategies that eliminate such inequities in the community.
- b. Minority communities have poor health outcomes due to racial, ethnic, social, environmental, economic, political and educational barriers. As a result of these obstacles, people have reduced access to health care resources and suffer higher rates of disease and death than their majority population peers. Health inequities are avoidable and unjust.
- c. The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) initiative at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes the importance of addressing health disparities. REACH has identified high priority areas in health for minority communities that include cardiovascular disease, diabetes, breast and cervical cancer, infant mortality, asthma, and obesity; all are areas in which these communities experience higher rates of poor health outcomes.
- d. Multnomah County recognizes health disparities for minority communities and seeks to address them with highly effective, culturally responsive best practices. In June 2007, Multnomah County established the Health Equity Initiative to create a common understanding of the root causes of racial and ethnic health disparities, focus on social justice and equity, raise visibility of current disparity elimination efforts being practiced by community-based organizations and county departments, and explore and advance policy solutions to address health inequities.
- e. In order to address the holistic approach necessary to improve health outcomes, Multnomah County uses the Equity and Empowerment lens with a Racial Justice focus to assess, adjust and effectively implement programs and decision-making processes that integrate the needs of minority communities when delivering preventative and direct services.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

April 2013 as National Minority Health Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

ADOPTED this 4th day of April, 2013.

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

Jeff Cogen, Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioners Loretta Smith, District 2