



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

## Board Clerk Use Only

**Meeting Date:** 8/16/18  
**Agenda Item #:** R.1  
**Est. Start Time:** 9:40 a.m.  
**Date Submitted:** 8/7/18

**Agenda Title:** Resolution to Adopt A Co-Applicant Agreement with the Community Health Council

**Requested Meeting:** August 16, 2018 **Time Needed:** 10 Minutes

**Department:** Health Department **Division:** Integrated Clinical Services

**Contact(s):** Vanetta Abdellatif, Adrienne Daniels, Liz Smith-Curry

**Phone:** 503-988-4826 **Ext.:** X84826 **Email:** adrienne.daniels@multco.us

**Presenters:** Vanetta Abdellatif, Adrienne Daniels

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Resolution to adopt a "co-applicant agreement" (memorandum of agreement) between the Board of County Commissioners and the Community Health Council.

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

The Multnomah County Community Health Center (a Federally Qualified Health Center) is governed by both the Board of County Commissioners and the Community Health Council. The Community Health Center must demonstrate that both boards share governance and accountability for the health center program. An evaluation by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in 2017 found that the Community Health Center lacked sufficient legal documentation of this relationship and governing partnership. To remain qualified for the health center program, Multnomah County must complete a co-applicant agreement between both boards.

Both boards currently share governing responsibilities; the establishment of the co-applicant agreement documents current practices and resolves compliance with the Community Health Center program requirements.

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

The Community Health Center received over \$9.6 million in designated health center funding from HRSA in 2017. It receives additional financial incentives to participate in the Federally Qualified Health Center program through discounted drug purchasing (340B), first dollar services, enhanced reimbursement, and loan repayment for providers. Failure to obtain a co-applicant agreement places the Health Center out of compliance and risks qualification to continue participating as a Federally Qualified Health Center.

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

In 2017, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) completed an evaluation of the Multnomah County Community Health Center Program. HRSA found four areas to be non-compliant with federal requirements. The Health Center has successfully corrected three areas, but must obtain approval from the Board of Commissioners and the Community Health Council to complete the final correction (the co-applicant agreement).

The HRSA recently issued additional guidance and clarified expectations of Health Centers to remain compliant with the Federally Qualified Health Center program. HRSA also issued additional financial penalties for Health Centers which do not meet the full requirements. There are 21 areas which all Health Centers must demonstrate compliance with each year. Health Centers which are non-compliant in any of the 21 areas are not able to apply for the full Health Center Grant, and are restricted to one-year of funding. Two years of non-compliance automatically prevents Health Centers from participating in the grant program and associated financial benefits.

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

Health Center leadership reviewed the 21 health center requirements with HRSA staff and the local Oregon Primary Care Association to solicit feedback on how to strengthen compliance related to health center governance. Leadership interviewed multiple government Health Centers across the United States to determine content and standards for existing co-applicant agreement between boards. The Health Center's Community Health Council (patient board) approved the proposed process for resolving compliance with the health center program requirements, including the creation of a co-applicant agreement.

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected  
Official or  
Department  
Director:**

Vanetta Abdellatif /s/

**Date:**

August 7, 2018