

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

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2014-024**

Proclaiming March 24-28, 2014 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Awareness Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people in Oregon face documented structural, financial and cultural barriers to accessing health care services. These barriers translate into disparities for LGBTQ people when receiving preventative health care services and decreased health care utilization.
- b. LGBTQ youth are much more likely to be victimized in school and to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth.
- c. LGBTQ people are often reluctant to seek care or to "come out" to health providers leading to under-screening and lack of early intervention likely to result in poor health.
- d. Gay men and lesbian women are at increased risk for certain cancers (lung, cervical, breast and anal cancer), due to a higher prevalence of smoking and inadequate risk assessment and screening by providers.
- e. HIV/AIDS continues to devastate LGBTQ populations, particularly men who have sex with men, men of color, transgender women (male to female) and LGBTQ injection drug users.
- f. Cultural competency training is a proven means to mitigate health disparities in the LGBTQ population.
- g. In recognition of National LGBT Health Awareness Week, we are committed to promoting the 2014 LGBTQ Meaningful Care Conference in Portland, OR to provide cultural competency training to over 400 health and social service providers in our region.
- h. This key step in local efforts will address social determinants of health to improve health care utilization, patient satisfaction and outcomes for LGBTQ consumers through expanding access to culturally competent care.
- i. In building these skills, providers are better equipped to address health care needs of our LGBTQ community, thus improving the lifelong health of all Oregonians.


**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaim:**

March 24-28, 2014 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Awareness Week and call upon our community to address inequities and promote the health and well being of all citizens regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

**ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2014.**



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

  
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Marissa Madrigal, Acting Chair

**SUBMITTED BY:** Commissioner Shiprack, District 3.