

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming May 2015 as Older Americans Act Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners Finds:

- a. Since 1965, the Older Americans Act has provided a national aging services network with funding for home-delivered meals, caregiver support, community-based assistance, preventive health services, personal care, transportation, job training, elder abuse prevention, and other resources enabling older adults to live longer, healthier lives in the communities of their choice.
- b. It is the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act, and this year's national campaign is entitled "Get into the Act" in acknowledgment of the older adults who are taking charge of their health, getting engaged in their communities, and making a positive impact in the lives of others.
- c. Multnomah County Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services Division, as the Area Agency on Aging, is charged with carrying out the services provided under the Older Americans Act and is active in creating innovative programs that promote equity, empowerment, and inclusion for LGBT and other older adults of diverse communities
- d. Sexual minority older adults have higher rates of disability, cardiovascular disease, and mental distress than heterosexuals of a similar age.
- e. In Oregon, there are an estimated 4,300 LGBT adults that reach 65 in Oregon each year.
- f. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older adults are only half as likely as their heterosexual peers to have close relatives they can rely on for help while nearly 27% assist someone close to them who has a health issue or other need.
- g. The Adult Care Home Program of the Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services Division has trained 30 operators to enhance their skills for working with LGBT adults and nine operators have completed the extended training necessary to receive the LGBT Welcoming Designation.
- h. Since October of 2014, home-bound LGBT older adults that experience depression or anxiety can now receive in-home mental health services.
- i. Recognizing that approximately 40% of individuals identifying as LGBT adults have served in the US military, Multnomah County Veterans Services Officers are developing new approaches to conduct outreach in the LGBT community.

- j. We recognize the wonderful diversity of older adults, and acknowledge there is much work to do to eliminate, and raise awareness of, the many disparities experienced within our community's diverse populations.

The Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners Proclaims:

The month of May 2015 to be OLDER AMERICANS ACT MONTH in Multnomah County, Oregon. We encourage and support efforts to empower all people to lead longer, healthier lives in the community.

ADOPTED this 30th day of April, 2015.