

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

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Proclaiming March 10, 2014 as National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. March 10, 2014 is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a day to "Share Knowledge and Take Action". The nationwide observance held each March 10 sheds light on the disease's often overlooked impact on women and girls and empowers people to make a difference.
- b. Of the more than 1.1 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States today, 280,000 are women. In 2009, there were 11,200 new HIV infections and in 2010 there were 8,422 new AIDS diagnoses among women. Research suggests that women with HIV face limited access to care and experience disparities in this access relative to men.
- c. HIV disproportionately impacts people of color with African Americans experiencing the highest rates of infection. From 2007–2011, in Oregon, an average of 26 African American females were diagnosed with HIV each year. The rate of diagnosis was highest among black or African American females at a rate of 12.1 cases per 100,000, 9.2 times higher than the rate among white females (1.3 per 100,000). Finally, Hispanic women were infected at a rate of 2.26 cases per 100,000.
- d. The impact of HIV on young women is particularly notable. Of the nearly 21,000 infections estimated to occur each year among African Americans, 34% were among young people ages 13 to 24. Specifically, the rate of new HIV infections among African American females ages 13 to 24 is five times that of young White or Hispanic females.
- e. The African American AIDS Awareness Action Alliance (A6) and its member agencies including Cascade AIDS Project, Multnomah County Health Department, the Oregon Health Authority HIV Prevention Program, Planned Parenthood of the Columbia Willamette, the Portland Chapter of the LINKS, Inc. in partnership with the Albina Ministerial Alliance are working together to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and recognize this day and its importance to all concerned citizens.

- f. National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day serves as an opportunity for Multnomah County officials and citizens to come together to offer support, encourage discussion, and educate women and girls about prevention of HIV transmission, the importance of getting tested for HIV, and how to live with and manage HIV/AIDS.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

March 10, 2014 is National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in Multnomah County, Oregon.

ADOPTED this 13th day of March, 2014.

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

Marissa Madrigal, Acting Chair

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Loretta Smith, District 2