

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2017-_____

Proclaiming Happy 52nd Birthday to Medicare and Medicaid.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Medicare and Medicaid programs into law.
- b. Medicare is the federal health insurance program created in 1965 for people ages 65 and older, regardless of income, medical history, or health status. The program was expanded in 1972 to cover people under age 65 with permanent disabilities. Before President Johnson signed Medicare into law, fewer than half of all older Americans had health insurance.
- c. Today, Medicare plays a key role in providing health and financial security to 55 million older people and younger people with disabilities. In Oregon, over 786,000 people are enrolled in Medicare, including over 117,000 people in Multnomah County.
- d. Medicaid is the nation's public health insurance program for low-income children, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities. Before President Johnson signed Medicaid into law, 40 to 50 million Americans were poor and lacked adequate medical care.
- e. For decades, Medicaid has been a lifeline for some of the most vulnerable people in the United States, including children, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Nationally, about 74.5 million people are enrolled in Medicaid, including over 992,000 people in Oregon and 190,000 people in Multnomah County.
- f. Today, Medicaid covers one in five Americans, including many with complex and costly needs for medical care and long-term services.
- g. Because Medicare and Medicaid made health care possible for millions of people, they have also catalyzed innovations in treatment that benefit people of all ages.
- h. Oregon and Multnomah County have long been leaders in health care, including efforts to build on the success of Medicare and Medicaid. In 2011, the Oregon Legislature passed health care transformation legislation with the goal of continuing to provide excellent health care at lower cost. And under the Affordable Care Act, more than 375,000 additional Oregonians have been enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan as part of the Medicaid Expansion, including 82,245 people in Multnomah County.

- i. Multnomah County is a partner in health care transformation. At the Multnomah County clinics teams work with patients to meet an individual's medical, behavioral and dental health needs. Multnomah County is a founding member of Health Share of Oregon the state's largest coordinated care organization. Multnomah County works with both Health Share of Oregon and Family Care coordinated care organizations to serve Oregon Health Plan members in Multnomah County.
- j. Multnomah County's Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program offers free one-on-one counseling for people entering Medicare or those already on Medicare who would like help getting the right coverage. Certified SHIBA volunteers help people understand how Medicare works; explain what health insurance plans and options are available in Multnomah County; and discuss with people their health care needs versus costs helping to identify sources of possible financial help.
- k. Medicare and Medicaid, including the Medicaid expansion included in the Affordable Care Act, have promoted and protected the physical, mental, and behavioral health of Oregonians.
- l. The residents of Multnomah County are encouraged to celebrate the 52nd birthday of the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid on July 30, 2017.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

Happy 52nd birthday to Medicare and Medicaid.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Sharon Meieran, District 1.