



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 7/27/17
Agenda Item #: R.8
Est. Start Time: 11:30 am approx
Date Submitted: 7/21/17

Agenda Title: Proclamation Proclaiming Happy 52nd Birthday to Medicare and Medicaid

Requested

Meeting Date: July 27, 2017 **Time Needed:** 15 minutes

Department: Non-Departmental **Division:** District 1

Contact(s): Katie Shriver, Office of Commissioner Sharon Meieran

Phone: 503/988-6786 **Ext.** 86786 **Email:** District1@multco.us

Four people, including two health care or worker advocates, one person enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid, and one Multnomah County staff person or volunteer with the Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA)

Presenters:

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of a Proclamation Proclaiming Happy 52nd Birthday to Medicare and Medicaid.

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.

- Proclaiming Happy 52nd birthday to Medicare and Medicaid, which were signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 30, 1965.
- Proclaiming that Medicare is the federal health insurance program created in 1965 for people ages 65 and older, regardless of income, medical history, or health status. Before President Johnson signed Medicare into law, fewer than half of older Americans had health insurance.
- Proclaiming that Medicare plays a key role in providing health and financial security to 55 million older people and younger people with disabilities.
- Proclaiming that 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.
- Proclaiming that 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.
- Proclaiming that Medicaid today covers one in five Americans, including many with complex and costly needs for medical care and long term services. More than

375,000 Oregonians enrolled in the Oregon Health Plan as part of the Medicaid expansion, including 82,245 people in Multnomah County.

- Proclaiming that 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.
- Proclaiming that Oregon and Multnomah County have long been leaders in health care, including efforts to build on the success of Medicare and Medicaid. The Oregon Health Plan was developed in the late 1980s and expanded to include Medicaid, covered seniors, and persons with disabilities in 1995. In 2011, the Oregon Legislature passed health care transformation legislation with the goal of continuing to provide excellent health care at lower cost.
- Proclaiming that Multnomah County is a partner in health care transformation. At Multnomah County health care clinics, an entire team works with a patient to meet that individual's medical, behavioral, and dental health care needs. Multnomah County also joined Health Share of Oregon, one of the coordinated care organizations serving Oregon Health Plan members in Multnomah County.
- Proclaiming that 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.
- Proclaiming that 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.
- Proclaiming that Multnomah County encourages the residents of Multnomah County to celebrate the 52nd birthday of the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid.

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

N/A.

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

This proclamation highlights important legislation, including passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965, passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, and Oregon's health care transformation law passed in 2011.

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

The legislation highlighted in response to question four above included significant public involvement. Most recently, efforts in Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act have led to significant public participation, including a Multnomah County proclamation on February 2, 2017, in support of the Affordable Care Act.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

/s/ Commissioner Sharon Meieran

Date:

July 21, 2017
