

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2023-017

Proclaiming April 3rd to 9th, 2023 as National Public Health Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Multnomah County Health Department aspires to foster healthy people and healthy communities through a wide range of evidence-based public health approaches. The Health Department works to prevent, prepare for, mitigate, and recover from the impact of the full range of health concerns in our community. We strive to be a local source for timely and useful health information that our communities can trust.
- B. Foundational to all public health work is the understanding that systemic racism has always been and continues to be a primary influence on the structure and well-being of our communities. The detrimental impact of racism on the social determinants of health — health care, education, social and community contexts, economic stability, housing, and environment — results in health inequities for BIPOC communities and negatively affects health outcomes for all people in Multnomah County.
- C. Multnomah County Health Department actively invests in programs and policy solutions designed to address racial inequities, including but not limited to passing a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco, creating funding opportunities for culturally specific organizations, and increasing data collection and analysis aimed at understanding health disparities.
- D. Public health includes our environment - the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink, and the accessibility and safety of the built environment. Focus on environmental health is a vital investment in both the present and the future. It is vast, stretching from the routine monitoring of water sources to emergency warming and cooling shelters to policies that make our roads safer.
- E. Creating impactful and sustainable resources and programs to support behavioral health is complex but essential public health work. In Multnomah County, this work strives to reduce trauma from violence, and help those with substance use and other behavioral health challenges find their path toward recovery and wellness through harm reduction, peer support, and treatment. It

also includes addressing the full context of people’s lives, connecting them to resources for secure access to food, health care, and housing.

- F. Public health focuses on addressing the leading causes of death at their source, eliminating the systems, circumstances, and beliefs that manifest health issues. Addressing root causes means we must weigh high-quality data collection and analysis equally with community voice and wisdom. It takes shape in everything from public information campaigns to spread awareness about disease prevention, to youth-led advisory groups aimed at building foundational self awareness and interpersonal skills, and policies to establish healthier environments.
- G. Investment in disease prevention works. National data demonstrates, each 10-percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a—
 - i. 6.9 percent decrease in infant deaths;
 - ii. 3.2 percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease;
 - iii. 1.4 percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes; and
 - iv. 1.1 percent decrease in cancer-related deaths.
- H. Multnomah County carries public health values through delivery of clinical care in 18 health center locations, behavioral health treatment and prevention services in all schools within the County’s six districts, and three County jail facilities. The community health center prioritizes accessibility and affordability because every person needs access to high-quality, affordable care, irrespective of their ethnicity, race, gender, sexual identity, or their financial status.
- I. Whole-person health means that clinical services extend beyond primary care to include pharmacy services, behavioral health, oral health, and STI and HIV care. It also means that health centers offer enabling services such as assistance with insurance enrollment, and language translation and interpretation into over 100 languages.
- J. Public health is not limited to the work of the Health Department, but also lives in the leadership, dedication, and innovation of many partners across the region, including, the Board of County Commissioners, our County Department and Office counterparts, other jurisdictions, community-based organizations, health systems, and many others.

- K. While countless people make public health progress possible in Multnomah County, it is essential to celebrate the more than 1500 employees in the Health Department dedicated to public health. Health Department staff do not just serve our community, they are part of the community. Everyday they bring passion, expertise, innovation, and care to their work in support of a healthier community for themselves, their loved ones, their colleagues, and everyone across Multnomah County.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims April 3-9, 2023 Public Health Week in Multnomah County, Oregon. This recognizes the efforts of the Multnomah County Health Department, the County, the State, and local municipalities, Tribes, local communities, and individuals in preventing disease and injury and promoting health, safety, and well-being.

ADOPTED this 6th day of April, 2023.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

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

By:

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Valdez Bravo, Interim Health Department Director