



## **APPENDIX C**

### **POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION**

## **I. County Government**

*(Suggested According to County Departments)*

### **Multnomah County Chair and Commissioners**

- Partner with corporations to remove financial barriers to higher education in public service fields employed by Multnomah County, i.e., library science, public health, social work, criminal justice.
- Develop a regional emergency response plan specific to the needs of vulnerable populations.
- Support for projects that close gaps in communication and service equity related to disaster preparedness.
- Promote the adoption by other local governments of an equity review process to consider equity in policy decisions related to community development, education, employment, transportation, etc.
- County programs should establish benchmarks for building community. Multnomah County should increase community resources by requiring that programs include building community capacity in all grant applications.
- Establish and implement proactive mandatory inspection of rental housing in unincorporated lands under the County's authority, similar to City of Gresham's program.
- Tax pornography to leverage dollars for women's health.
- Convene community dialogues to understand racism.
- Facilitate conversations to make local government more transparent and keep the public informed.
- Assure equitable access to courses in civics, nutrition, physical education, health education and personal finances. Schools and job training programs should teach basic life skills, such as buying a house, financial literacy, civic engagement and advocacy that would foster a sense of community
- Convene area foundations to encourage grant-making using an equity lens.
- Include community members in decision making to help change the expectation that the government will be the provider.
- Tax gun sales to leverage funds for violence prevention.

# APPENDIX C

## *POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION*

### **Public Affairs Office**

- Continue raising the awareness of staff, community, and policymakers in regard to social determinants of health through media and education. Highlight direct action that people can take to address inequities.
- Use public service announcements to raise awareness of future discussions. Encourage further conversation through the use of public media campaigns.

### **Department of Community Justice**


- Support policies and programs that ensure that people of color are not disproportionately adversely affected by community justice interventions.
- Implementation of Corrections Health transition planning, including registered nurses and case managers to coordinate the return to the community for detainees with serious medical and mental health conditions.
- Residential and out patient alcohol and drug treatment services.
- Establish a working committee of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council to address the inequitable support to underserved victims of crime, especially people of color and recent immigrants. (Oregon Crime Victims' Needs Assessment, Crime Victims Assistance Division, Oregon Department of Justice 2002)
- Assure that the Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) considers HEI in developing its recommendations, agreements etc. At a minimum, provide training/information to LPSCC regarding the health inequities associated with the criminal justice system
- Evaluate current and future policies and programs to ensure that people of color are not disproportionately adversely affected by criminal justice interventions

### **Department of Community Services**

- Increase fruit and vegetable content of food supplied by Multnomah county, and increase the percentage of food purchased by Multnomah county from local farms
- Assure that all jurisdictions with housing code in Multnomah County enforce lead-based paint and mold protocols consistent with the international housing code standards.

### **Department of Human Services**

- A coordinated planning process for mental health system enhancements.
- Promote connections among small, local farms and low-income neighborhoods by (1) convening a policy forum with local farmers, residents and policy makers to identify policy and remove barriers to connecting local farmers with low-income people and reduce the cost of doing business



## APPENDIX C

### POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION

for small, local farms, and (2) establishing land use agreements for food co-ops and farmers markets in low-income neighborhoods. Expand farmers' markets to eastern areas of Portland and Multnomah County. Expand the use of food stamps and WIC vouchers at farmers' markets.

- Establish a program to encourage youth and adult civic engagement. "Youth Empowerment Strategies" program should be used in Multnomah County and extended to include both youth and adults in civic engagement (Health Promot Pract online, first published on July 17, 2006)
- Examine the feasibility of co-locating multiple services in culturally-specific "one-stop shopping" centers (e.g., Villa de Clara Vista).
- Continuation and expansion of education programs to provide youth with resources, skills, and connections to succeed, such as SUN Community Schools and Connected by 25.
- Reinstate courses in civics, nutrition, physical education, health education and personal finances. Schools and job training programs should teach basic life skills, such as buying a house, financial literacy, civic engagement and advocacy that would foster a sense of community.
- Improve nutrition and physical activities in day cares and schools. For example, help implement relevant recommendations in A Healthy Active Oregon: A Statewide Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan 2007-2012, such as expanding the Farm to School program and requiring daily physical education.
- Expanding programs that provide early identification and intervention with students missing school.
- Establishing an Experience Corps model of bringing youth and elders together for mutual benefit. The program brings elders together with young, school-aged children. Elders experience better physical and psychological outcomes, and children receive mentoring and experience better education outcomes.
- Add or reinstate curriculum in schools including civics, nutrition, physical education, personal finance, and health education. Include *Unnatural Causes* series in health curriculum; show *Unnatural Causes* series in high school civics, health and social studies classes.

# APPENDIX C

## POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION

- Implementation of a domestic violence all-in-one service center, including health related services.
- Provide information to teachers about the diversity of their students and to young women about the risk factors for low birth weight and infant mortality.
- Examine and revise department forms and procedures, as needed, so that persons with less formal education can more readily access services and benefits. Use video-based computerized options for client education.
- Provide access to ESL (English as a second language) services.

### Department of County Management

- Promote current efforts to establish a County staff that mirrors the communities it serves by hiring, retaining and promoting a diverse workforce, such as health care providers, librarians, and service contractors. Improve County's current efforts to train, mentor, and promote persons of color to management careers.
- Continued screenings of the *Unnatural Causes* series for county employees, at libraries, churches, neighborhoods, and schools; with all county prenatal providers and community leaders, with younger people (high school age), at colleges, and in ongoing county employee trainings as a way to continue to raise awareness about health inequities and to foster community engagement. Screenings should be made available for showing at house parties as well as in organizations that provide services to young women.
- Providing additional cultural competence training for all County staff providing services. Require training in cultural competency for all health care providers.
- Provide Undoing Institutional Racism course for MC Managers.
- Establish tuition reimbursement programs for entry-level county employees.
- Multnomah County sponsor free or reduced cost fitness club memberships for low-income residents. Negotiate discounted memberships with fitness centers through group purchasing.
- Remove junk food from County buildings and replace with healthier choices.
- Provide training in coping skills to alleviate stress.
- Allow the combining of sick and vacation time in donations to catastrophic leave donation requests.
- Restructure the Employee Wellness Program to target health disparities among County staff.
- Establish early childhood programs for Multnomah County employees; employees of childbearing age are more likely to be people of color and lower income.
- Create a "Health Equity" section for new employee orientation
- Educate County staff on UN Declaration of Human Rights and implementation strategies
- Educate workforce development efforts/programs regarding the domestic violence workplace leave law
- Establish a proactive and responsive communication process to assure accountability and an effective reporting system when allegations of racism arise in the workplace





## **APPENDIX C**

### **POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION**

#### **Department of Libraries**

- Use library story time to help young children learn about healthy eating.
- Continued screenings of the *Unnatural Causes* series for county employees, at libraries, churches, neighborhoods, and schools; with all county prenatal providers and community leaders, with younger people (high school age), at colleges, and in ongoing county employee trainings as a way to continue to raise awareness about health inequities and to foster community engagement. Screenings should be made available for showing at house parties as well as in organizations that provide services to young women.
- Establish inviting neighborhood places in Multnomah County Libraries where people of all ages and backgrounds can obtain literature, information and answers to questions related to work, school and civic goals.

#### **Department of Health**

- Expand Multnomah County's connection with community food programs such as community gardens, gleaners and harvest share programs, and learning gardens through such community partners as Oregon Food Bank and Growing Gardens. Create an organized effort to help neighborhoods plant gardens. Promote school gardens and garden-based learning for children. Create a county-sponsored "Friends of Gardens" program to establish gardens within neighborhoods.
- Sponsor free clinics, health fairs, and community fairs with incentives for attendance.
- Examine the current distribution of County services, such as preventive services for children, checkups, etc., and consider expanding those services by geographic area of need.
- Forming health care-related/patient support groups would help people come together around a common interest and to reduce social isolation.
- Work with women's community groups and organizations to raise awareness of risk factors for low birth weight and infant mortality. Educate young women and men on the risks for low birth weight and infant mortality.

# APPENDIX C

## *POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION*

- Promote geographic equity of availability of healthy and affordable food; work with local grocers, food retailers and small “corner” markets (i.e., Louisville Health Equity Center). Promote the geographic availability of affordable food by providing incentives for grocers in low-income neighborhoods. Create incentives to increase supermarkets/grocery stores and access to healthy food in underserved areas.
- Consider expanding the County’s School Based Health Centers to be sites for distributing information, special medical screenings, and immunizations.
- Expand connection between farmers’ markets and County employees by building relationships with farmers’ market associations and allowing these associations to use County building parking lots at no cost.
- Increase focus on County involvement in women’s health issues.
- Create a list of possible individual actions to reduce health inequities.
- Improve communication and information sharing across county providers to increase consistency of information to clients.
- Establish cooking and canning classes to bring people together and to preserve left over foods from farmers’ markets. Promote cooking and canning classes.
- Establish mandatory home health inspections of housing where Multnomah County provides housing vouchers.
- Lengthen visit time to assure that providers understand patient needs and concerns. Direct providers to take the needed time to understand patients concerns and needs.
- Establish a restaurant menu labeling ordinance, so consumers have information to make healthier food choices.
- Conduct Health Impact Assessment of Ballot Measures.
- Support the expansion of Community Health Worker/promoter/a programs to all communities affected by health inequities. Ensuring whenever possible that CHWs are paid employees with benefits and are engaged in community organizing and sharing health education. (See Annie E. Casey Foundation, Final Report of the Natl. Comm. Health Advisor Study, 1998)

## **II. City Government**

- Promote alternative modes of transportation such as walking, biking, and public transportation. Develop more walking and biking trails. Establish bike boulevards separated from traffic. Establish more off-street or low-use street bike paths and sidewalks throughout County neighborhoods. Establish, in partnership with City of Portland, a community bike-lending program, with plentiful low-cost rentals.
- Partner with community enhancement CBOs like City Repair to change the underlying physical structure of neighborhoods to enhance community connections.

## APPENDIX C

### POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION

- Build small communities with access to shopping and services within walking distance. Expand car-free neighborhoods on a regular basis to enhance the opportunity for neighbors to connect with each other.
- Support programs that encourage minority ownership. Encourage home ownership through Community Land Trusts and low down payment, low interest loans for minority home ownership programs.
- Require corporations, such as those who benefited from the development of Northwest Portland's Pearl District, to give back to the community in some way.
- Increase the number of homeless shelters for women and children.
- Convene community dialogues to understand racism.
- Expand the quantity and quality of parks and greenspace within Multnomah County to reduce the disparity in access for people of color and low-income individuals.
- Facilitate conversations to make local government more transparent and keep the public informed.
- Volunteering encourages community cohesion. Companies should receive tax credits for having employees volunteer which would then help to offset the costs of organizing events such as "Potlucks in the Park," a program that serves meals for the homeless. Create a clearing house to connect people with volunteer opportunities.
- Provide incentives for small stores and disincentives for large stores in low-income neighborhoods.
- Use zoning laws to limit and regulate the number of liquor stores and fast food places in neighborhoods.
- Coordinate with Portland Parks and Recreation to evaluate health impacts of exercise programs and park space.
- Consider partnering to create more "one-stop shopping" service centers that include County services, literacy, mentoring programs and gathering space (e.g., Hacienda CDC, New Columbia); consider City of Portland, and Metro as potential partners. Examine the feasibility of co-locating multiple services in culturally-specific "one-stop shopping" centers (e.g., Villa de Clara Vista).

# APPENDIX C

## *POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION*

- Improve social fabric, safety, and civic engagement of neighborhoods through creative design of affordable housing and collocation of services to provide home ownership opportunities to low-income people with a building design that encourages community cohesion.
- Expand requirements for rental inspections. Promote the adoption of a proactive mandatory rental inspection policy similar to the City of Gresham by the Cities of Portland, Troutdale, Fairview and Wood Village and unincorporated lands under the County's authority.
- Increase affordable housing in the Gresham area; assess extent of housing need in Gresham; assess the need for affordable housing in East County.
- Facilitate neighborhood-level strategies to address unfavorable neighborhood social conditions, increase protective and resiliency factors that support health.
- Consider Food Policy Council's recommendations for collaboration, especially with respect to policies that promote independence and equity for neighborhoods.
- Tenant-based rental assistance programs based on sufficient evidence that these programs reduce the likelihood of being a victim of crime and decrease neighborhood social disorder.
- Ensure that green space, park space, and other community gathering and recreation space meet minimum standards for safety with consideration to ADA standards, lighting and pedestrian access, and child development.
- Explore the feasibility of collaborating with the Schools, Families & Housing Initiative through Portland Community Land Trust and the City of Portland.
- Evaluate the services that are currently provided, the use and availability of community services clients are referred to and the effectiveness of community resources, such as weatherization.
- Include community members in decision making to help change the expectation that the government will be the provider.
- Holistic land use planning to provide places for community gardens.

### **III. State Government**

- Universal health care including mental health care and prevention. Support efforts to ensure access to healthcare for all Oregonians, such as the work of the Oregon Health Fund Board with particular attention paid to the recommendations of the Health Equities Committee.
- Ban the marketing/sale of junk foods in schools.
- Require employers to provide "livable" wages.
- Reinstate courses in civics, nutrition, physical education, health education and personal finances. Schools and job training programs should teach basic life skills, such as buying a house, financial literacy, civic engagement and advocacy that would foster a sense of community.
- Revise government policies that cause working poor to lose all of their welfare or disability





## **APPENDIX C**

### ***POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION***

- benefits if they take a job to supplement their benefits; increase poverty thresholds to increase eligibility for services.
- Increase taxes on unhealthy products. Tax tobacco, alcohol, non-nutritional beverages, and junk food to fund policies and programs to decrease health inequities and subsidize healthy foods in local markets.
- Mandate paid sick days and paid vacations, and incentives for healthy behaviors. Provide incentives, such as TriMet passes monetary incentives or a reduction in work hours to people who practice healthy behaviors like walking or biking to work.
- Require health insurance to cover alternative health care.
- Require affordable or free access to mental health services. Enhance the mental health system.
- Tax pornography to leverage dollars for women's health.
- Promote a "heat security" policy that would guarantee heat for low-income people by convening a forum of local energy producers, distributors and policy maker.
- Require health insurance to cover costs of health promotion and prevention activities.
- Support the collaboration of provider systems (e.g., Kaiser, Legacy, Multnomah County) to establish an urgent care system to divert patients from more expensive emergency department care.
- Engage health systems and educational institutions to create minority scholarships for health career education for graduates of public schools.
- Improve nutrition and physical activities in day cares and schools. For example, help implement relevant recommendations in A Healthy Active Oregon: A Statewide Physical Activity and Nutrition Plan 2007-2012, such as expanding the Farm to School program and requiring daily physical education.
- Add exercise rooms to new public housing.
- Provide incentives to builders to build healthier homes. Make affordable housing cleaner and safer (e.g., affordable housing can be retrofitted to help eliminate indoor air pollution.
- Provide tax incentives to low-income families with college students.
- Implement transition centers for released and homeless offenders.

# APPENDIX C

## POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION

- Expanding programs that provide early identification and intervention with students missing school.
- Determine whether and how many new living wage jobs result from business tax incentives.
- Support policies and programs that ensure that people of color are not disproportionately adversely affected by community justice interventions.
- Provide and expand low-interest loans to minority-owned business.
- Facilitate conversations to make local government more transparent and keep the public informed.
- Increase taxes and make accompanying changes so Oregon could be marketed as the cleanest, most educated, longest life expectancy, and best served state. Taxes should increase a broad range of specific health and social services as well as efforts to improve health equity and redistribute income.
- Promote telecommuting, fewer work days, or longer work days.
- Use a holistic approach to providing services, for example, education, housing, and anti-violence.
- Partner with emerging “green” heat companies to encourage solar heat in low income housing.
- Add or reinstate curriculum in schools including civics, nutrition, physical education, personal finance, and health education. Include *Unnatural Causes* series in health curriculum; show *Unnatural Causes* series in high school civics, health and social studies classes.
- Fund micro-enterprise and entrepreneurial training that could be linked to empowerment and health promotion with various populations. Explore feasibility of funding micro-enterprise programs that provide quality, affordable childcare.
- Support legislation for paid parental leave.
- Increase interpretation services for parents who have their children translate for them.
- Promotion of farming that serves local communities. Protect farmlands and establish economic incentives to rebuild farming.
- Establish health clinics in the work place.
- Promote the adoption of a municipal water fluoridation policy.
- Establish a nutrition education program, and provide diabetes education.
- Assess the health impacts of new policies, programs, and community projects.
- Provide access to ESL (English as a second language) services.
- Require new home construction to include special features to improve indoor air quality and reduce air pollutants. Require features to improve indoor air quality and reduce air pollutants in new home construction. Encourage partnerships that promote affordable housing designs and community cohesion.
- Increase funding and ability to provide Health Impact Assessments.
- Oppose policies that deny access to indigenous cultures and that promote cultural disconnections between immigrant parents and children.
- Establish property tax incentives to remove lead-based paint.
- Greater focus on energy conservation.



## **APPENDIX C**

### ***POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION***

- Advocate and partner for the elimination of statewide “no-cause eviction” policy for rental housing.
- Establish disincentives for manufacturing plants that use 25 or more acres of agricultural land.
- Assure the availability of healthy homes including setting standards for indoor air quality and promoting “breathe easy homes.”  
Breathe easy homes are constructed with special features to improve indoor air quality and reduce air pollutants. Special features include airtight construction to reduce opportunities for mold growth, insulated windows and an insulated foundation to reduce dust and pollen, and the use of ventilation that removes stale air and filters incoming fresh air. Savings from the reduction of emergency room visits due to asthma can be diverted to further increase the number of healthy homes. Direct emergency department savings to develop more “asthma free” public housing.
- Provide information to teachers about the diversity of their students and to young women about the risk factors for low birth weight and infant mortality.
- Surveys, statistics, reports and presentations should provide positive information as well as negative information about minority groups.
- Examine funding equity for general versus culturally-specific service delivery models.
- Promote Earned Income Tax Credits.
- Require businesses with more than 20 employees to pay towards health care coverage.
- Promote current efforts to develop a streamlined process for contracting with minority, women, and emerging small businesses. Increase the number of county purchases from and contracts with minority businesses. Assist community providers and contractors in the process of responding to requests for proposals.
- Engage with regional health systems to encourage collecting county specific data on health services and outcomes by income and race.
- Include community members in decision making to help change the expectation that the government will be the provider.
- Tax gun sales to leverage funds for violence prevention.
- Provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

# APPENDIX C

## *POLICY PRIORITIES BY GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION*

- Mandate daycare at work sites.
- Promote current efforts to develop a streamlined process for promoting and contracting with minority, women, and emerging small businesses, which may include a streamlined certification process.
- Establish financial disincentives for long car commutes.
- Restore adult misdemeanor supervision.
- Examine the long-term costs of displacement during development.
- Expand funding for health promotion programs as an investment that will save money later.
- Support for projects that close gaps in communication and service equity related to disaster preparedness.

### **IV. Federal Government**

- Revise government policies that cause working poor to lose all of their welfare or disability benefits if they take a job to supplement their benefits; increase poverty thresholds to increase eligibility for services.
- Advocate for full and adequate funding for early childhood programs such as Head Start. The CDC recommends comprehensive, center-based, early childhood development programs for low-income children based on strong evidence that such programs improve cognitive development.
- Expand (childhood) early intervention programs. Increase screening of children for developmental delays and disabilities; provide early intervention for children to avoid more serious and expensive long-term health problems.
- Protect workers from the consequences of company relocation. Require companies that relocate out of the area to finance retraining programs for workers in industries that are growing (e.g., health care, engineering, technology, media, etc.) or severance pay for layoffs.
- Require food labeling so that consumers know what chemicals are in their foods.
- Facilitate conversations to make local government more transparent and keep the public informed.
- Revise per-capita funding formula to provide increased funds for populations with documented disparities.
- Include community members in decision making to help change the expectation that the government will be the provider.
- Establish standards for indoor air quality.

