

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON
SITTING ALSO AS THE BOARD OF HEALTH

ORDER AND RESOLUTION
NO: 21-04-21-01

In the Matter of Approving and Adopting a
Resolution Acknowledging Racism as a
Public Health Crisis

WHEREAS, throughout our nation’s history, slavery, racism and racial injustice have led to deepening racial disparities across all sectors and have had lasting negative consequences for Lane County; and

WHEREAS, the racist history of Oregon in particular, including the presence of the Black exclusion clause in the State’s constitution, has had lasting negative consequences for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (“BIPOC”) communities of the State and Lane County; and

WHEREAS, Lane County has recognized that there is a systemic and prolific nature to racism built into the foundation of the United States and as such these actions go on without recognition and effective adjudication; and

WHEREAS, racism has deep and harmful impacts that unfairly disadvantage members of the BIPOC communities and unfairly advantage people who identify as white; and

WHEREAS, racism and discrimination are linked to adverse health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, members of the BIPOC communities living in Lane County are likely to experience higher rates of chronic disease, COVID-19 infection and hospitalization and poverty, as well as lower rates of high school graduation and lower life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Lane County BIPOC communities is a present-day demonstration of the systemic racism in institutions and systems; and

WHEREAS, it is the mission of Lane County Public Health to promote and protect the long-term health and well-being of individuals, families and our community and the Lane County Board of Health has committed to addressing racial equity and health disparities in all forms and at all levels;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Board of County Commissioners sitting also as the Board of Health, **Orders and Resolves** that the Lane County Board of Health declares that racism is a public health crisis; and

Be it further resolved that the Lane County Board of Health will:

1. Promote active and authentic engagement with BIPOC communities on issues of race, ethnicity and health.
2. Use an equity lens to form policy recommendations that will demonstrably improve health outcomes in Lane County related to race and ethnicity.

3. Obtain and use more meaningful data in order to better tell the story of Lane County's BIPOC communities.
4. Review and regularly evaluate the County's equity and diversity requirements for employees with the goal of ensuring that training is mandatory, comprehensive, relevant, and incorporated into professional development evaluations; as well as to additionally highly encourage training for all those who represent the County in any capacity.
5. Urge other institutions, organizations and governmental bodies to declare racism as a public health crisis and to adopt strategies to reduce the long-term impact of systemic racism.
6. Allocate resources to effectively implement these actions.
7. Provide biannual updates on these actions at Board of Health meetings.

ADOPTED this 21st day of April, 2021.



Joe Berney, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners