

**OREGON HEALTH FUND BOARD
HEALTH EQUITIES COMMITTEE**
Approved by OHFB _____

Objective

The Health Equities Committee is chartered with developing multicultural strategies for program eligibility and enrollment procedures as well as with making policy recommendations to reduce health disparities through delivery system reform and benefit design of the Oregon Health Fund program. The work of the Health Equities Committee will be submitted directly to the Oregon Health Fund Board (OHFB) as well as integrated into the work of other OHFB committees.

Scope

The Health Equities Committee will focus its study of strategies to reduce health disparities in Oregon, including but not limited to:

1. Providing the Eligibility & Enrollment Committee with recommendations concerning but not limited to:
 - Best practices for outreach in communities of color, homeless adults and youth, with individuals who live in geographic isolation, and with individuals who experience other barriers to enrollment.
 - Strategies to reduce disparities in insurance status by decreasing barriers to enrollment and streamlining enrollment policies & practices
2. Providing the Delivery Committee with recommendations concerning reducing health disparities in Oregon. Recommendations may include but are not limited to topics such as:
 - Elements of the Medical Home model that reduce health disparities and provide culturally competent care.
 - Financial incentive programs to reduce targeted health disparities and quality care through provider fee increases and value-based purchasing
 - A plan to increase collection of health-related data for people of color and other under-represented populations using techniques that are culturally sensitive and accurate.
 - Provider workforce issues such as recruitment of minority and rural providers, retention, and cultural-competence training.
 - Methods to empower and incentivize individuals to make healthy lifestyle choices.
 - Methods to ensure competent linguistic access within the healthcare delivery system.
3. Providing the Benefits Committee with recommendations concerning benefit designs that support the health of women, minorities, and other vulnerable populations including but not limited to:

- Benefits related to women’s health and benefit designs that target women of childbearing age.
- An emphasis on reducing health disparities in developing a benefit package of essential health services.
- Ensuring an affordable benefit package that promotes the health of individuals who have physical or mental health disabilities.
- Reimbursement options for health promotion activities that occur outside of the traditional healthcare delivery system.

Committee Membership

Name	Affiliation	City
Yves LeFranc, MD	Adventist Health Systems	Portland
Ella Booth, Ph.D.	Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)	Portland
Honora Englander, MD	OHSU Division of Hospital Medicine	Portland
Scott Ekblad	Office of Rural Health, OHSU	Portland
Maria Michalczyk, RN, MA,	Healthcare Interpreter Training program, Portland Community College	Portland
Michelle Berlin, MD, MPH	Center of Excellence in Women’s Health, OHSU	Portland
Tricia Tillman, MPH	Multnomah County Health Department	Portland
Noelle Wiggins	Multnomah County Health Department	Portland
John Duke, MBA	Outside-In Homeless Youth Clinic	Portland
Jackie Mercer	NARA	Portland
Ed Blackburn	Central City Concern	Portland
Bruce Bliatout, Ph.D.,	Multnomah County Health Department	Portland
Laurie Powers, Ph.D.	Portland State University, Regional Research Institute	Portland
Melinda Muller, MD	Legacy Health Systems	Portland
Joe Finkbonner	Northwest Portland Indian Health Board	Portland
Holden Leung, MSW	Asian Health and Service Center	Portland

Staff Resources

- Heidi Allen, (Lead Staff) OHREC Director and Medicaid Advisory Committee, OHPR – Heidi.Allen@state.or.us; 503-373-1608
- Nate Hierlmaier, Policy Analyst, OHPR – Nate.Hierlmaier@state.or.us; 503-373-1632
- Shawna Kennedy-Walters, Office Specialist, OHPR – Shawna.Kennedy-Walters@state.or.us; 503-373-1598

Timing

The Committee will provide its recommendation(s) to Oregon Health Fund Board and the Eligibility and Enrollment Committee no later than January 15, 2008,

recommendations to the Oregon Health Fund Board and Delivery Committee no later than March 15, 2008, and recommendations to the Oregon Health Fund Board and Benefits Committee no later than March 15, 2008. The Committee will continue to act as a resource to the Oregon Health Fund Board and the committees of the Board as needed throughout the 2008 policy planning process.