



APPENDIX A

**Governor's Racial & Ethnic Health Task
Force Executive Order – 99 – 07**

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO - 99 - 07

RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH TASK FORCE

This Executive Order creates the Racial and Ethnic Health Task Force to review, analyze, and recommend changes as needed in State of Oregon Agencies, including but not limited to the Department of Human Resources and other state programs with the goal of improving the individual and community health status for people of color and ethnic populations.

The Task Force created by this Order shall be comprised of concerned individuals from effected racial and ethnic communities, as well as representatives from both private and non-profit organizations and state agencies who are dedicated to working toward improvement in the health status of Oregon's racial and ethnic populations.

The Task Force will report annually to the Governor and Legislative Assembly on the performance of those state agencies whose programs address racial and ethnic health issues.

The Task Force will generally advise and assist state agencies in meeting the goals and objectives established by the Governor.

It is essential that we as a state achieve this goal for the economic, health, and social costs attributed to poor health status of racial and ethnic communities are substantial, and inflict a needless toll upon these communities and our state as a whole.

In early 1998 a group of concerned citizens gathered to form the Racial and Ethnic Health Work Group (Group) to study issues regarding racial and ethnic health issues. The Group developed a plan of action which identified the following three goals:

- * develop legislation establishing an entity to oversee racial and ethnic health issues affecting Oregonians;
- * recommend increased funding for the Oregon Health Division's Office of Multicultural Health;
- * create a task force to provide assistance and advice on monitoring and ensuring accountability for state activities related to prioritized racial and ethnic health issues identified in this Order for the 1999-2001 biennium.

WHEREAS the Oregon Benchmarks track the progress on infant mortality, prenatal services, and the numbers of adults and children lacking health coverage;

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO - 99 - 07

Page Two

WHEREAS the Oregon Progress Board issued an update on Oregon minorities in January 1998 indicating improvement in selected health benchmarks but Oregon minorities continue to lag behind the state as a whole in areas such as infant mortality, prenatal services, and people lacking health coverage;

WHEREAS it has been determined that access to health care by racial and ethnic minorities is inadequate to address the chronic health issues these communities face;

WHEREAS it has also been determined that health coverage can best be defined as medically appropriate care provided when needed by culturally competent providers;

WHEREAS it has been determined that people of color and people with native languages other than English experience extreme difficulty accessing health services;

WHEREAS improving health status in all communities requires effective programs of prevention, protection, education and health promotion;

WHEREAS six critical health priorities have been identified for increased efforts during the 1999-2001 Biennium;

THEREBY IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

1. The Racial and Ethnic Task Force is hereby created. The membership of the Task Force shall be no greater than 21, comprised as follows:
 - a: Six members of the Legislative Assembly with interest and expertise in the subject of racial and ethnic health. Three of these members shall be members of racial or ethnic groups.
 - b: One representative from each of the following agencies and organizations, as nominated by the executive authority of the organization or agency.
 - i) the Commission on Asian Affairs;
 - ii) the Commission on Black Affairs;
 - iii) the Commission on Hispanic Affairs;
 - iv) the Legislative Committee on Indian Services;
 - v) the Oregon Medical Association;
 - vi) the Conference of Local Health Officials;

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO - 99 - 07

Page Three

- vii) the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems;
- viii) the Governor's Office.

Organizations are encouraged to nominate persons who are knowledgeable about public health issues and persons who have a specific knowledge about one or more of the six priority areas that shall constitute the focus of the Task Force during the 1999-2001 biennium.

- c: Seven additional members appointed by the Governor who are members of racial or ethnic groups.
2. The members of the Task Force shall choose two members as co-chairs. The co-chairs shall establish an agenda for the Task Force, facilitate communication among members of the Task Force, and generally provide leadership and direction for the Task Force.
 3. The following state agencies shall provide support to the Task Force:
 - a: the Oregon Health Division;
 - b: the Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs;
 - c: the Office of Medical Assistance Programs;
 - d: the Mental Health Division;
 - e: Senior and Disabled Services Division;
 - f: the Office for Oregon Health Plan Policy and Research;
 - g: the Oregon Medical Insurance Program;
 - h: the Insurance Pool Governing Board.

The directors of these state agencies, and other state agencies with authority and activities affecting the health status of racial and ethnic communities as identified by the Oregon Health Council and the Oregon Health Division, shall cooperate by providing information as needed and available, and by meeting with and reporting to the Task Force as requested.

4. The Task Force shall carry out the following activities:
 - a: review and recommend revisions to the goals, strategies, and outcome measurements of prevention and treatment programs

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO - 99 - 07

Page Four

related to the racial and ethnic health issues identified in this Executive Order;

- b: review and recommend revisions to the implementation plans for programs related to the priority racial and ethnic health issues identified by this Executive Order and the accompanying budgets;
 - c: review the overall effectiveness of such programs and advise the appropriate agencies of any recommended changes including redirection of resources as indicated;
 - d: Make an annual report to the Governor detailing its findings and recommendations.
5. In carrying out these activities during the 1999-2001 biennium, the Task Force shall focus upon the following priorities:
- a: adequate access to treatment for Oregonians with physical and mental health coverage, with adequate access being defined as medically appropriate care provided when necessary by culturally competent providers in a suitable setting;
 - b: HIV/AIDS
 - c: diabetes;
 - d: asthma;
 - e: lead poisoning;
 - f: alcohol and drug abuse.
6. While other issues also disproportionately effect racial and ethnic communities, these priority areas were identified for the extreme consequences they visit upon children and families throughout racial and ethnic populations, as well as the need for concerted collaboration toward improving outcomes in the treatment of these conditions. In prioritizing these conditions, the Group assumed continued and funding levels and

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO - 99 - 07

Page Five

service efforts for existing programs and activities in areas which also aim to provide increased access to services relating to racial and ethnic health. The Task Force shall establish priorities for future bienniums.

7. Meetings of the Task Force shall be coordinated and staffed by the Office for Oregon Health Plan Policy and Research in collaboration with the Oregon Health Division Office of Multicultural Health. The Task Force shall meet at least once per quarter, and may hold additional meetings as deemed necessary by the chairs.
8. This Order expires four years from the date of its issuance unless explicitly extended by the Governor.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 10th day of March, 1999.

/S/_____

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

/S/_____

Phil Keisling
SECRETARY OF STATE