

TITLE: The Message: Operationalizing Racism is a Public Health Crisis in Lane County

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Topic: Racism is a Public Health Crisis. Audiences: Local health officials, health department staff, community organization representatives interested in public declarations around racism as a public health crisis and local follow-up actions.

ABSTRACT: Lane County Health Authority passed a resolution on April 21, 2021 declaring Racism is a Public Health Crisis. In doing so, Lane County joined one other municipality in Oregon and hundreds of local government entities across the country in a movement to highlight the public health impacts of systemic racism that was sparked by the social movements for racial justice of 2020 and by the pandemic's exposing of underlying racial inequities in health. As a program of the Lane County Public Health Department, the newly-formed Community Partnerships Program is engaged with both internal stakeholders in the Health Department along with community-based partners to move the Lane County Resolution into action steps and interventions. In this presentation, we review the national movement to issue public health declarations against racism, discuss the Lane County anti-racism resolution, describe the range of activities and actions that local governments and other entities have taken to advance anti-racism resolutions, and review the challenges we have encountered in Lane County as we have sought to mobilize internal and external stakeholders around our Resolution and to craft effective public-facing messaging around racism as a public health crisis.

OBJECTIVE(S): 1)Describe the efforts to declare Racism is a Public Health Crisis across the U.S.2)Explain local actions in Lane County, Oregon to advance the Resolution on Racism is a Public Health Crisis.3)Discuss strategies in operationalizing declarations about Racism is a Public Health Crisis.4)Identify challenges in advancing anti-racism work in local public health departments.
