

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

PROCLAMATION NO. 2017-060

Proclaiming July 2017 as Multnomah County PrEP Awareness Month.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. In July 2012, the Food and Drug Administration approved the first medication for use as HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, or PrEP, signaling a new era in HIV prevention.
- B. Nationally, PrEP has been found to be up to 99 percent effective in preventing those who have not been infected with HIV from contracting the virus, based on the results of two large clinical trials. An estimated 80,000 patients have filled prescriptions over the past four years.
- C. The 2020 National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States makes an important case for PrEP as part of its primary goal to reduce new HIV infections.
- D. Public health interventions like PrEP, are key to preventing Oregonians from contracting HIV in their lifetimes.
- E. The State of Oregon has set an important precedent, covering the full cost of PrEP in most of its Oregon Health Plan (OHP) formularies.
- F. Due to the effectiveness of PrEP, there is more work needed to increase access to this prevention method, especially within communities of color.
- G. In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), using the first comprehensive national estimates of lifetime risk of HIV for several key populations, predicted that if current infection rates continue, one in two African-American gay and bisexual men will be infected with the virus. That compares with a lifetime risk of one in 99 nationally and one in 11 for white gay and bisexual men.
- H. In June 2017, *The New York Times* reported that if gay and bisexual African-American men in the United States made up a country, its HIV infection rate would be the highest in the world.
- I. A CDC report issued in February 2017 noted that only a small percentage of African-Americans use PrEP to prevent contracting the virus, accounting for only 10 percent of prescriptions; the vast majority of users are white.
- J. Among the barriers to PrEP are affordability, awareness, and access to primary health care.
- K. Multnomah County, as the largest primary care safety net provider in Oregon, provides its residents access to PrEP through the Health Department's Neighborhood Primary Care Clinics.
- L. Multnomah County is successfully reducing new HIV cases in part by providing access to HIV PrEP medication, with new HIV cases decreasing 30% in the past two years from the previous 5-year average.
- M. Multnomah County's support of Prism Health – a primary care center of the Cascade AIDS Project, focused on serving LGBTQ+ communities – has resulted in barrier-free access to innovative prevention tools.

N. Multnomah County's PrEP Awareness Month aims to:

- a. motivate community dialogue and education on innovative HIV prevention tools;
- b. increase PrEP awareness within communities most at risk of HIV infection;
- c. call on providers to have adequate resources and understanding of how to care for patients living with HIV;
- d. reduce the stigma, discrimination, and shame that drive individuals to avoid the health care system – including seeking and receiving HIV testing; and
- e. expand awareness of Multnomah County's HIV prevention services that are affordable, accessible, and available to all who call Multnomah County home.

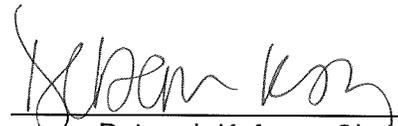
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

The month of July 2017 as Multnomah County PrEP Awareness Month, and encourages all residents to observe this month and learn more about how to prevent the contraction and spread of HIV.

ADOPTED this 13th day of July, 2017.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Jessica Vega Pederson, District 3 Commissioner.