

A Passion for Equity

On June 14th, the Equity Workgroup of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), in a collaborative effort between Lane County, PeaceHealth, Trillium, United Way and community organizations came together to address systemic inequities in our health and education systems. After viewing "When the Bough Breaks," a documentary which examines how racism can become embedded in the body and affect health, we had the privilege to hear panelists comprised of local advocates discuss the impact of racism on health. In small break out groups, we discussed how racial and ethnic disparities in health care are among the many factors producing inequalities in health status for many Lane county residents.



As an educator of 23 years, I can testify that perceptions of a problem influence the actions taken (or not taken) to change policies and practices. If the public or providers are unaware that a problem exists, or misunderstand the nature of the problem, it can be difficult to direct resources to address that problem. As a fairly new comer to Lane County, I am both delighted and inspired to meet professionals in the Lane County Equity Coalition who, like me, are passionate and committed to working together to make our community a more equitable and welcoming place to live.

Lane ESD welcomed Dr. Carlos Sequeira as the new Director of Instruction, Equity, and Partnerships. Dr. Sequeira previously served as Collaboration Director for Bethel School District. Prior to coming to Eugene, he was a building administrator, an assistant principal and he has 12 years of classroom teaching experience.

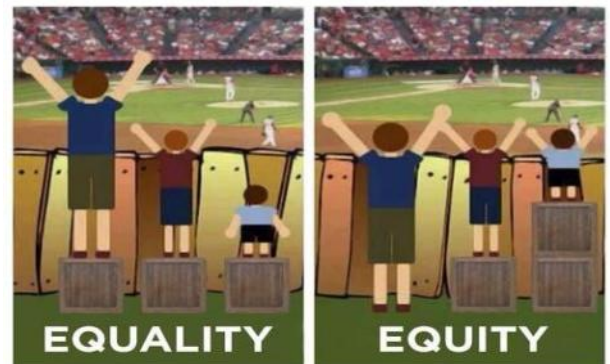
Director's Message



There has been incredible momentum building over the last two months for the work ahead for Connected Lane County. Specifically, we have education and industry leaders at the same table excitedly discussing ways to systematize how we provide work exposure and college experiences to our students. There is simultaneous excitement as our educators, libraries, and social-service providers are discussing ways to bring reading collaborations and opportunities into our elementary school classrooms. This work is critical to achieving our mission, but it wouldn't be complete without the equity lens that drives how we select and evaluate the

appropriate strategies and approaches to our work. We want all children in our county to have the opportunities to reach their full potential. What can you do to ensure that these paths are created?

As always, I have a ton of gratitude for each of you, and I want to thank you for your involvement with Connected Lane County.



Building Bridges

Connected Lane County's Longitudinal Database was established to provide common measures and data language across the various systems in Lane County.

During the past year, the Data Collaborative group has been developing a process for utilizing data to monitor our programs and for utilizing data for research purposes. You can now find data request applications on our website

under the Reference Materials tab. Additionally, we are gearing up to run a query so we can share an update on all 13 metrics in September. We've run several model reports and the data can now be utilized to track progress towards shared goals, enable collaboration, and catalyze action. On July 19th, Heidi Larwick and Matt Hayes delivered a presentation on the CLC Database at the Reach Higher Summit.



Committee Member Corner

"Many of the assumptions, values and practices of people and institutions of the dominant culture serve to disadvantage students from the non-dominant culture".



The above statement is an excerpt from the National Equity Project and it underscores the challenges and opportunities facing our community. Equity is a central value and theme in the Lane Early Learning Alliance, the Community Health Improvement plan, and Connected Lane County. All three collectives are engaging local leaders and advisors to ensure there is intentionality in applying an equity framework to the work ahead. Achieving our goals would not be possible without understanding the relevancy to various culturally, racially, and linguistically diverse groups.

Noreen has served as President & CEO of United Way of Lane County since February 2012. She currently serves on the following community initiatives: the Poverty & Homelessness Board, the Lane Workforce Partnership, the Catalyst Advisory Committee for the 15th Night Initiative, United Ways of the Pacific Northwest Board, Kaiser Permanente Advisory Committee, the Lane County STEM Hub and Connected Lane County.

Equity

An equitable society is one in which all can participate and prosper. The goals of equity must be to create conditions that allow all to reach their full potential. In short, equity creates a path from hope to change.

From the Anti-Racist Alliance

Staff

Heidi Larwick

Matt Hayes

Michelle Martin

Steering Committee

Gustavo Balderas

Matt Coleman

Dawn DeWolf

Noreen Dunnells

Nancy Golden

Gino Grimaldi

Alicia Hays

Randy Kamphaus

Judy Newman

Chris Parra

Kristina Payne

Susan Rieke-Smith

Greg Rikhoff

George Russell

Mary Spilde

Sally Storm

Larry Sullivan

