

RESOLUTION – June 16, 2020

Declaring Systemic and Structural Racism as a Public Health Crisis: Eliminating racial, economic, social, health and other systemic injustices

WHEREAS, Jefferson County Public Health’s mission is “promoting and protecting health across the lifespan through prevention, education, treatment, response, and regulation”; and

WHEREAS, local boards of health and county commissioners across the nation have declared that racism is a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association defines racism as “a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call “race”), that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources;¹ and

WHEREAS, racism “is a driving force of the social determinants of health and is a barrier to health equity”;¹ and

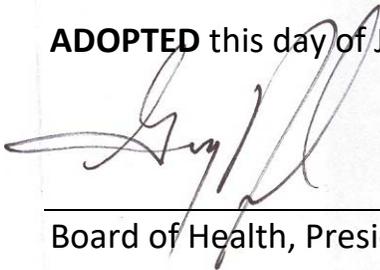
WHEREAS, people and communities of color are disproportionately affected by systemic and structural racism, over-policing, excessive police violence, over incarceration and poverty, and are subjected to a variety of systemic injustices which result in premature death and disability; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County Public Health is committed to implementing unbiased, evidence-informed policies, systems, and environmental change interventions to increase opportunities for a healthy life in the County of Jefferson.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REQUESTS JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TO:

- Assess internal policies to ensure racial and ethnic equity;
- Develop policy platforms which address systemic racism and injustices;
- Actively engage people and communities of color affected by disadvantage and poverty to alleviate harmful conditions in which people live, work and age, and;
- Enhance data collection and analyses that produce a justice-informed community health needs assessment and community health improvement plan.

ADOPTED this day of June 16, 2020



Board of Health, President, Greg Deranleau

¹<https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/health-equity/racism-and-health#.Xujq26HnlGM.email>