

2024 Forum on Rural Population Health & Health Equity

- PRESENTED BY THE OREGON ADVOCACY COMMISSIONS OFFICE -

Elevating Community Input to Address Rural Health Inequities

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2024 Forum on Rural Population Health & Health Equity

- Audio has been muted for all participants upon entry
- Moderators will assist with Q+A at the end of the presentation
- Presentation slides will be posted at ohsu.edu/orhforum
- Sessions will be recorded and available to attendees
- Please take the session surveys!

House Resolution 6: Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

"Whereas white supremacy was institutionalized through the development of policies and systems that ensure power, privilege and resources remain in the hands of white men; and

Whereas racism in Oregon has left a legacy of trauma from one generation to the next, impacting Oregon tribes, Black and Indigenous communities and people of color through a cumulative effect;..."

Equality vs Equity

Equality



Equity

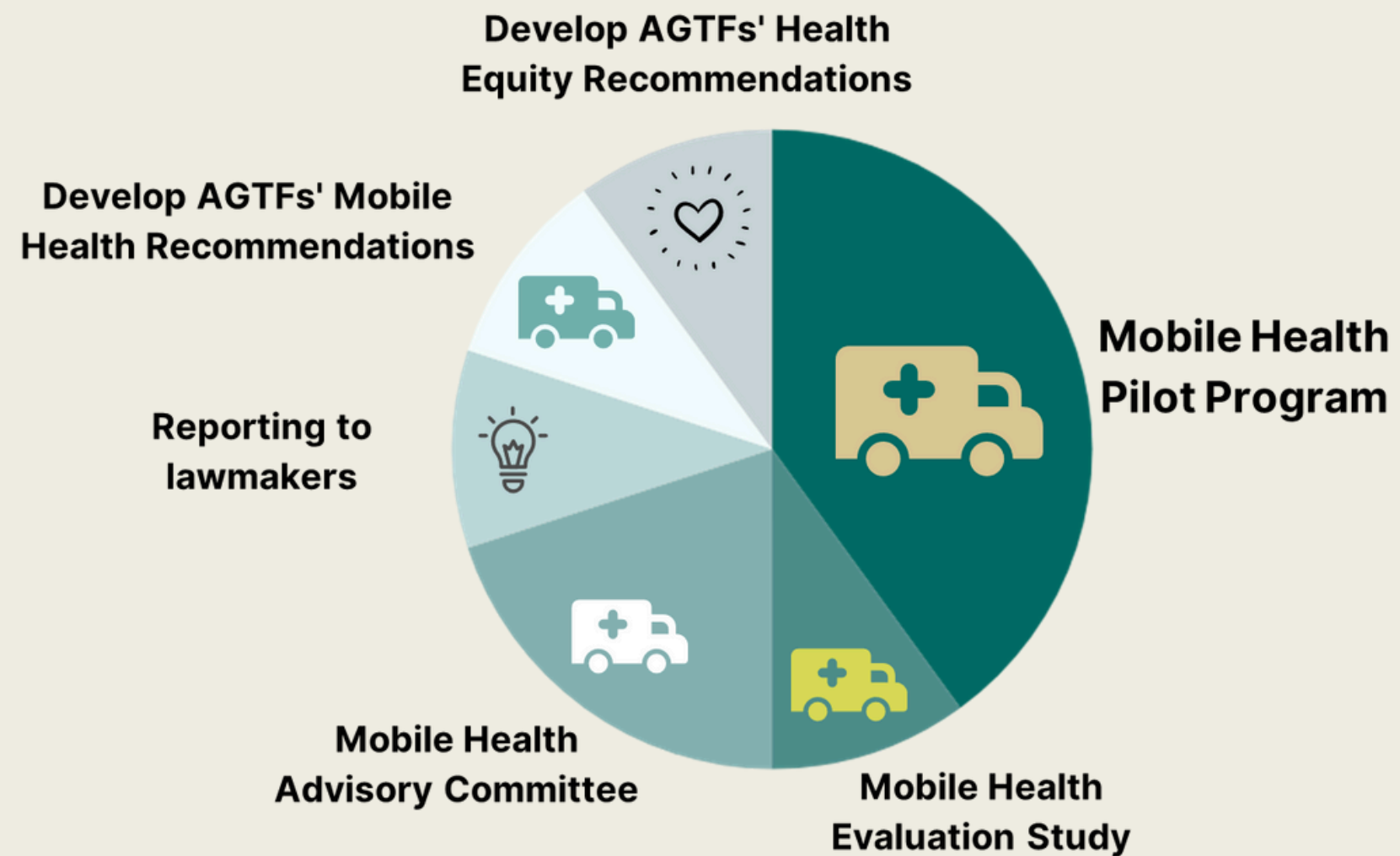


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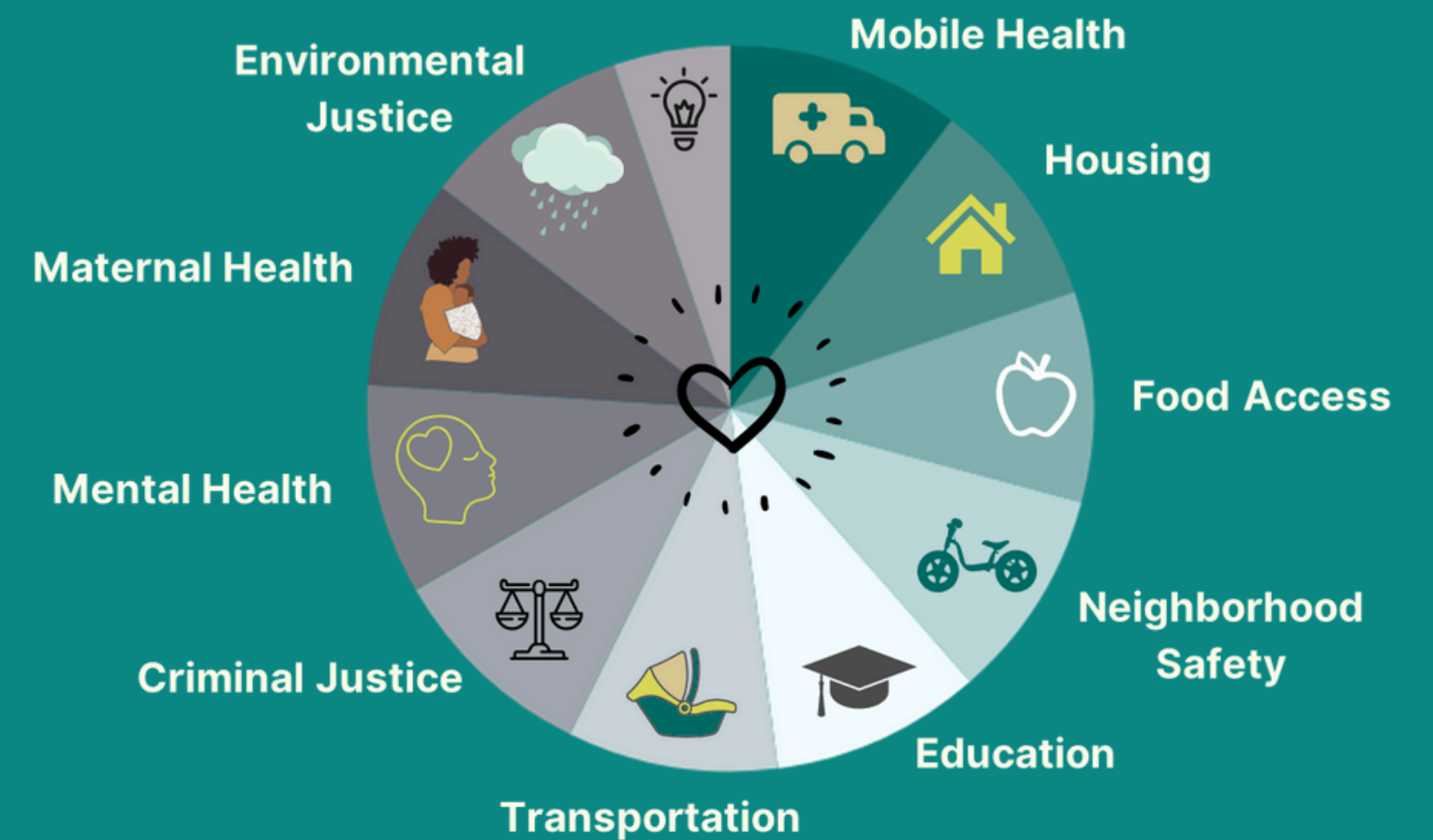
House Bill 4052



Focus: Mobile Health Unit Pilot Program



Focus: Community-Led Recommendations for Social Determinants of Health



Affinity Group Task Forces



Health Equity Advisory Leaders (HEAL)

HEAL members guided conversations, shared stories and ideas, and discussed needs and recommendations related to anti-racism and social determinants of health during monthly equity meetings

Indigenous Health Equity Action Council (IHEAC)



Community-Led, Community-Informed

Community-based organizations, service providers, coalitions, and task forces



Tribal leaders, citizens, and communities

Thought leaders who designed House Bill 4052

Oregon Advocacy Commissions



Interim Report

Interim Report on the Work of the Affinity Group Task Forces Created by House Bill 4052 (2022) Addressing Racism as a Public Health Crisis

PREPARED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

The Affinity Group Task Forces:
Health Equity Advisory Leaders (**HEAL**) &
Indigenous Health Equity Action Council (**IHEAC**);
and the Oregon Advocacy Commissions Office

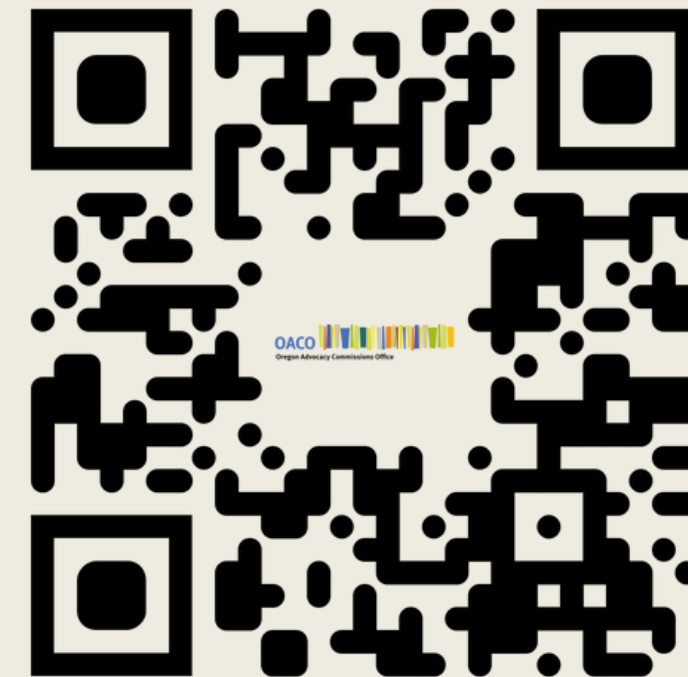
PRESENTED TO

The Oregon Legislative Assembly

December 2023



View the [HB 4052 Interim Report](#) to learn more about the process for collaboration and delve further into specific recommendations



SCAN QR CODE

Areas of Focus



**Healthcare Access
and Quality**



**Social and
Community Context**



**Neighborhood
and Built Environment**



**Education Access
and Quality**

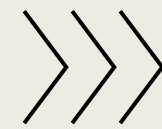


Economic Stability



Government Processes

Next Steps



Legislative buy-in and the co-creation of drafting legislative concepts

Introducing legislation in future sessions

Gaining support within the legislature during session

- HOUSE BILL 4052 -

Rural Health Equity Reccomendations

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Funding for Rural
Produce Access

Accessible
Transportation
in All Places

Improving
Emergency
Response & Services

Internet Access
for All Oregonians

County-Based
Pharmacy
Access

RECOMMENDATION #1

Funding for Rural Produce Access

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Problem:

In rural areas, many Oregonians don't have access to affordable fresh produce in the towns they live in.

Solution:

There must be a push to establish accessible and comprehensive support programs, emphasizing both treatment and prevention, to promote lasting recovery and well-being.

RECOMMENDATION #2

Accessible Transportation in All Places

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Problem:

There are many places in Oregon where there is a lack of accessible transportation, improving transportation will help families go to the hospital, grocery store, and other locations in their community to have a higher quality of life.

Progress:

NEMT

OHP pays for travel "non-emergent medical transportation" (NEMT) which allows people to access healthcare that OHP covers including travel via taxi, bus or a local ride service. This can include travel costs, such as gas, meals and lodging.

GEMT

The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program is a voluntary program that makes supplemental payments to eligible GEMT providers who provide qualifying emergency ambulance services to Medicaid recipients. The supplemental payment covers the gap between the eligible GEMT provider's total allowable costs for providing GEMT services.

RECOMMENDATION #3

Improving Emergency Response and Services

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Problem:

The [2019 Oregon Rural & Frontier Emergency Medical Services](#) reports 100% reported difficulty with recruitment, training and retention of personnel. Additionally, reimbursement barriers were reported by 80% of the EMS provider agency participants, including Medicare reimbursement and often unbillable but commonplace calls, such as lift assists, standby events and non-emergency calls. In some areas emergency response operation costs are not sustained from a constant source and rely on voters approving levy revenue. This heavily impacts folks in rural and frontier areas that will see their ER response time increase.

Solution:

Create a permanent source of revenue such as an EMS state tax which should be consistent and proportionate to the needs of the rural and frontier communities it is meant to serve.

RECOMMENDATION #4

Internet Access for All Oregonians

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Community Feedback:

“And when we talk about education. Telehealth, the importance of having quality broadband. There's no guarantee we have quality broadband unless we have a public option. Only where you have high earning people, is there good broadband currently.”

“People with disabilities need better access to internet regardless of income b/c they often rely more on video call and internet more.”

Progress:

House Bill 3201, known as the Oregon Broadband Bill, was passed in 2023 which provides funding for broadband “access, affordability and adoption” through the Oregon Business Development Department’s Oregon Broadband Office. These programs include the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment and the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Programs under Digital Equity. Oregon’s Digital Equity Plan has been awarded \$9.9 million in initial implementation funding.

RECOMMENDATION #5

County-Based Pharmacy Access

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Problem:

Many neighborhood pharmacies have closed, especially in rural Oregon, reducing access to prescription medicines.

Community Feedback:

“Access to certain medicines, there’s a barrier. FDA is trying to get pharmacy access for all families regardless of status. Three kinds of visits to the doctor, it was such an expensive medicine.”

- HOUSE BILL 4052 -

Action Items

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Community Engagement and Partnerships



Accessibility & Inclusivity



Policy Advocacy



Telehealth Expansion



Thank you!

View the OACO's [HB 4052 Interim Report](#) to learn more about our process for collaboration and delve further into specific recommendations related to rural health



- Contact the Health Equity Team -

health.equity@oac.oregon.gov

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Thank you to our partners!



QUESTIONS?

