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WISCONSIN PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

Assure safe and healthy people by monitoring progress on the state health plan, Healthiest Wisconsin 2020, and on the readiness for public health emergencies.



Resolution in support of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Division of Public Health's CLAS Standards Efforts

Passed April 1, 2016

Whereas, the mission of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is “to support economic prosperity and quality of life, the Department of Health Services exercises multiple roles in the protection and promotion of the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin;” and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Division of Public Health strives to “provide public health services to the people of Wisconsin that address communicable and chronic diseases; health promotion; environmental, occupational, and family and community health; emergency medical services; and injury prevention;” and

Whereas, in order to achieve these laudable goals, the Department of Health Services and Division of Public Health are dedicated to ensuring access to programs, information and services that will support Wisconsin being the healthiest state in the Nation; and

Whereas, the stated goals of “the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (the National CLAS Standards) are intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by establishing a blueprint for health and health care organizations to provide effective, equitable, understandable, and respectful quality care and services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs;” and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Public Health Council recognizes the need for providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services in order to help reduce disparities in health care outcomes, especially among communities of color; members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community; individuals for whom English is not their primary language; the disabled; people who are blind or visually impaired; people who are deaf or hard of hearing; women, children; and others who have language and cultural barriers to accessing health care services as needed; and

Whereas, that the Wisconsin Public Health Council understands and appreciates that implementing the CLAS standards will reduce health disparities; therefore

Be it resolved, the Wisconsin Public Health Council supports efforts undertaken by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Division of Public Health to support implementation of CLAS Standards in our state as a way to reduce health disparities.

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