



RESOLUTION: Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis

WHEREAS the County of Summit ADM Board (ADM Board) and its contract agencies work to ensure that there is effective and timely treatment for all people affected by alcohol, drug use, and/or mental health conditions.

WHEREAS there is an undeniable link between the experience of racism and institutional bias including trauma and toxic stress negatively impacting the recovery, health, and wellness of communities of color.

WHEREAS the ADM Board, through its contract agencies and community partnerships, works to reduce daily living barriers for those in the recovering community.

WHEREAS the ADM Board believes that racism constitutes a public health crisis and a barrier to access to care.

WHEREAS the ADM Board supports peoples' right to peacefully protest and engage in conversation concerning racism and institutional bias as a productive exercise in promoting positive mental wellness.

WHEREAS the ADM Board believes in equitable access to substance use prevention and mental health promotion services, behavioral health treatment and support services.

WHEREAS the ADM Board, along with other public and private institutions and people should evaluate their behavior and decisions through the lens of equity and justice to reduce all health disparities.

WHEREAS the ADM Board pledges its continued support to improve health equity within our system of care and to work with individuals and organizations so that people can achieve mental wellness.

WHEREAS research shows change is most likely to happen when people engage in discussion, willingly using empathy when listening to learn about another person's experience in order to begin honest exploration of how current practices can be changed to eradicate systemic racism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Summit ADM Board designate \$100,000 to be allocated to like-minded Summit County individuals or community organizations for activities designed to increase knowledge and improve understanding of the effects of systemic racism on mental health and community access to culturally relevant services.

RATIFIED on the 23rd day of June, 2020, by ADM Board of Directors.

John M. Williams
Chair, Board of Directors
County of Summit ADM Board

Gerald A. Craig
Executive Director
County of Summit ADM Board