The Two Pandemics:
Systemic Racism and COVID-19
Moderator

Leon Andrews
Director, Race, Equity, And Leadership Program (REAL)
National League of Cities
Collaborating Organizations
REAL Mission

“To strengthen local leaders’ knowledge and capacity to eliminate racial disparities, heal racial divisions and build more equitable communities.”
REAL Today

- Training and Capacity Building
- Technical Assistance
- Network Building
- Building Special Populations Work

NLC Race, Equity And Leadership - http://NLC.org/REAL
Theory of Change

Change happens when people recognize:

1) Why the change is needed
2) Potential of proposed solutions
3) Shared urgency
Racial Disparities

From infant mortality to life expectancy, race predicts how well one will do.
Racial Disparities

6 in 10 of U.S. prisoners are Black/Latino (yet only comprise 30% of the U.S. population)

65% Black or Latino men graduate from High School (80% of White males will)

Black and Native American unemployment is 2x that of Whites

57% of Blacks and Latinos spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs
What is the Process for Racial Equity?
Mayor Lovely A. Warren

• How is Rochester leading the racial equity conversations within your organization?
• What are the biggest challenges Rochester has faced in the wake of COVID-19?
• How have you handled the tensions that have followed the continued incidents of police killings of black residents?
What is Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center?

- Founded in 1975 out of social injustice
- Virginia died needlessly
- Community rallied
- That summer we began delivering services in borrowed 3-car garage
Our Mission

"The Mission of the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center is to provide high quality, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate primary health care to the communities of Washington and Yamhill counties with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farmworkers and others with barriers to receiving health care."
Largest nonprofit Community Health Center in the State of Oregon

- We provide comprehensive primary, dental and mental health care in 5 primary care clinics, 6 dental clinics, 5 school-based health centers, a women’s clinic and in a mobile clinic that takes care directly to our patients where they live and work.
- 52,500 unduplicated patients served annually
- Over 60 languages spoken by our patients
- 98% of our patients have low-incomes
## Oregon Health Disparities: COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Group</th>
<th>Population %</th>
<th>COVID-19 Positives %</th>
<th>Over-representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>13.44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>3.69</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>1.86</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>0.98</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0.43</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Virginia Garcia Latinx Health Disparities: COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Pending</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>1,589</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>2,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Latinx</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>1,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,645</strong></td>
<td><strong>303</strong></td>
<td><strong>449</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,397</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **87%** of our positive test results are Latinx
- Only **62%** of those tested are Latinx
Why?

- People of color are more likely to be essential workers
- More likely to be unable to work remotely
- More likely to have complex health issues that are exacerbated by the virus
- Fewer support systems such as vacation, sick leave or the ability to collect unemployment or participate in the federal CARES act.
What are we doing about it?

• Screening, screening and more screening
• Public service ads in Spanish
• Partnerships with our local governments and other CBOs
• Securing donated masks – we provide one with every test
• Providing navigation for the Oregon Worker Relief Fund
Thousands of immigrant Oregonians are facing extreme economic hardship as a result of COVID-19, yet have been intentionally excluded from worker relief.

www.workerrelief.org
What else should be done?

- We need state (or national)-led campaigns. A SINGLE set of messages (developed in partnership with community). Multiple languages. Multiple platforms.
- We need more resources. People are hurting. Food insecurity, housing instability, quarantine support.
- We need research. This is a public health crisis and merits a public health response, complete with research and proposed solutions.
How is Austin leading the racial equity conversations within your organization?

How are you working across departments to ensure that an equity lens is being applied?
Dr. Marie Peoples

• How has COVID impacted your county’s indigenous community?

• What innovative programs have you established or encountered during the pandemic?

• Do you have a strategy in place that is guiding your work; what’s working?