

Black Men's Health Month

Recognizing

Screening, Care and Social Needs to Address Prostate Cancer for Black Men

June 2024

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of addressing disparities in prostate cancer screening, incidence, mortality, and guideline congruent care for Black men for achieving Health Equity. Thus, during the National Men's Health Month of June we find it necessary to seek funding for Black men's prostate health initiatives which address systemic barriers facilitating prostate cancer inequities in Alameda County; and

WHEREAS, the report from the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency entitled, "Examining Increases in Mortality and Disparities from 2018-2019 to 2020-2021" shows that African American/Black Alameda County residents are disproportionately impacted by not only COVID-19 but also other chronic illnesses such as cancer where they nearly have twice the mortality rate of White residents of the County. Additionally, the Healthy Alameda County Disparities Dashboard displays Black men as having the highest incidence of prostate cancer in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Public Health Department in partnership with the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Umoja Health has initiated an effort to increase prostate, colorectal and other cancer awareness. There exists no countywide initiative or programming for Black men and cancer, specifically as it relates to prostate cancer early detection, screening, care or social needs. Black men have the highest incidence of prostate cancer, have more advanced prostate cancer at the time of diagnosis and have higher mortality rates due to prostate cancer. These gaps call for the need to fund, sustain and deliver County, community and clinical-driven solutions for Black men as it pertains to prostate cancer; and

WHEREAS, even though we emphasize a need to fund programming to increase cancer awareness, education, screening and guideline-concordant care which is beneficial to optimize survival, we also need to focus attention on the need for assessing and addressing the social needs faced by Black men diagnosed with prostate cancer. For instance, that quality of life can be improved during and after treatment, and that this programming requires buy-in by not only the community stakeholders but also the County leadership and the Health department; and

WHEREAS, the current health status and future of Alameda County Black men is closely tied to what health initiatives and policies are established now. A legacy of systemic racism and resource deprivation have resulted in unfair and unequal distribution of resources and opportunities for generations, stripping the community of access to relevant, quality and guideline congruent health information, technology and care that has facilitated health disparities across multiple generations and diseases including cancer; and

WHEREAS, public health and medical discourse is often centered around genetic or behavioral causes of cancer. It is critical that we design a prostate cancer initiative that focuses on the unique systemic and social inequities that Black men face and which may contribute to disparities in prostate cancer incidence and mortality, and that we provide community partnered services grounded in research that can more effectively support and address the health and well-being of Black men; and

WHEREAS, the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center Office of Community Engagement's Black Men's Health Committee and Umoja Health will continue in partnership with long standing community stakeholders to provide community-based pop-ups, with health screenings, and cancer education to address systemic issues impacting Black men's health and to build community health capacity; and

Therefore, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Alameda, and State of California be in support of a Black Men's Prostate cancer initiative to seek funding for early detection, guideline concordant care, and social needs programming to address systemic and social barriers that produce prostate cancer disparities impacting Black Men and urge all County institutions and residents to make addressing the disproportional impact of prostate cancer on Black men a centerpiece of the goal of striving towards health equity and addressing systemic racism.

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