

October 19, 2020

As this is CCHCP's last newsletter of 2020, we would like to highlight Universal Human Rights Month, which takes place in December. On December 10th, 1948 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of fundamental freedoms and basic rights to be achieved for every individual in the world. At CCHCP, we believe that every individual has the right to quality health care services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate. We encourage our CCHCP colleagues to read Article 25 of the Declaration, explaining that every person has the right to adequate health and well-being. Read Article 25 and the rest of the Declaration here.

You'll find in this newsletter more information about The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how it pertains to the work we all do in language access and equity and inclusion. Also, we want to note that October is Health Literacy month. Check out our article on Health Literacy Month and health literacy resources.

We are so grateful and hold in deepest respect the work being done by everyone in the health care and human services community, especially this year during which the world has experienced not only the tragic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also a renewed realization that as a society we have much work to be done to address health inequities and racial justice. We recently also experienced devastating wildfires in the western U.S. states. We heard from AllCare Health in Grants Pass, Oregon, which uses our Bridging the Gap curriculum to train medical interpreters, about how medical interpreters worked with public health, emergency management and health care organizations to assist with relief efforts in the southern Oregon communities hit hard by the wildfires. You can read more about how medical interpreters were an important resource for the southern Oregon community in a letter we received from AllCare Health that we have included in this newsletter, along with a photo of some of the participants from one of AllCare's recent Bridging the Gap classes.

At CCHCP we welcome another new board member this month – Keith A. Bussey, Director of Operations in the Office of Healthcare Equity at UW Medicine.

As we wind down the year, we look forward to serving you and your communities towards achieving the goal of equitable access to quality health care services. May the difficult experiences and lessons learned during 2020 serve to create a world where all our universal human rights are valued and continuously strengthened.

Paulina Bendaña

Executive Director