

City of Cincinnati



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Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
Vice Mayor

March 20, 2024

MOTION

WE MOVE that the City of Cincinnati reposition the Center for Closing the Health Gap as a line item in its operating budget – as it was historically – and remove it from the category of Human Services. The Center for Closing the Health Gap is not a human services provider. Rather, its mission is to eliminate racial and health disparities in the Greater Cincinnati community through education, advocacy, and outreach targeting the African American, Latino, and White Appalachian populations. The vision of Closing the Health Gap is to make Greater Cincinnati a healthier region for all.

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

Scotty Johnson

Victoria Parks

STATEMENT

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King

The Center for Closing the Health Gap is not a human services agency. The field of human services is broad and involves providing services to help individuals to stabilize and improve their quality of life through meeting their basic needs, guidance, counseling, and treatment. The Center for Closing the Health Gap is not a human service provider. It is a grassroots mobilization organization and helps people activate their individual agency to live healthier lives, with a mission to eliminate racial health disparities in the Greater Cincinnati community through education, advocacy, and outreach. They target African American, Latino, and White Appalachian populations to fulfill their vision to make Greater Cincinnati a healthier region for all.

It is well documented that people of color in America bear a higher burden of disease and premature death. In 2002, the Institute of Medicine issued a report entitled, “Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health” that identified race and ethnicity as significant predictors of health care quality. Data from this and other reports served as the foundation upon which the Center for Closing the Health Gap was established. In a 2015 report, the Urban League of Southwest Ohio demonstrated that Cincinnati zip codes are predictors of lifespan. This report highlighted the difference in life expectancies of up to 20 years between low income and affluent neighborhoods. Both reports, as well as a robust body of research in the area of health disparities, emphasize the social determinants of health disparities.

The Center for Closing the Health Gap is a grassroots organization that is leading the fight against health disparities in Cincinnati by addressing the social determinants of health disparities, raising the muted voices of the community. Closing the Health Gap meets people where they are and empowers them to make healthier, sustainable change within their families.