Resolution 1

To support declaring racism as a public health crisis and enact efforts to increase cultural competency for the Ohio Association of Community Health Center staff and our health center members.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers supports Ohio’s 56 Federally Qualified Health Centers and FQHC Look-Alikes, (more commonly referred to as Community Health Centers), providing care to more than 850,000 Ohioans across 400+ sites spread throughout 71 of Ohio’s 88 counties.

WHEREAS, for more than 55 years, Community Health Centers have provided integrated whole-person care, often times providing medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, vision and other needed supplemental services all under one roof.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers’ mission is to ensure access to high-quality affordable health care for all Ohioans, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, income level or insurance status, through the growth and development of Ohio’s Community Health Centers.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers acknowledges there is substantial data showing long-term effects of racial and ethnic disparities on health outcomes, including but not limited to, higher rates for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, infant and maternal mortality and deaths of despair.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers recognizes addressing social determinants of health such as poverty, unequal access to health care, lack of education, stigma, and racism is a primary approach to achieving health equity.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers will support efforts recognizing racism as a public health crisis, including but not limited to, taking a proponent position on Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 of the 133rd Ohio General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers will provide training and technical assistance with supplier diversity to health center members on cultural and implicit biases, social disparities, and cultural competency.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers will continue racially equitable hiring and promotion of all employees and provide culture and diversity training to all employees.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers commits to support the declaration of racism as a public health crisis and enact efforts to mitigate racism and increase cultural competency at OACHC and our health center membership.

Approved:

Jean Polster, Board Chair

7/20/20

Randy Runyon, President & CEO

7/20/2020