



Orange County Government
Office of the County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus
NEWS RELEASE

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Orange County to host Health Equity Conference on March 8th at SUNY Orange

*Event aims to raise awareness of the need for health equity and connect County
with community partners*

Goshen, N.Y. - Orange County Executive Steven M. Neuhaus and Commissioner of Health Dr. Eli Avila announced that the County will host a Health Equity Conference on Wednesday, March 8 from 9:15 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. at SUNY Orange's Rowley Center for Science and Engineering in Middletown.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of the need for health equity in Orange County and to connect with community partners who are focused on reducing health disparities. The Department of Health's Division of Health Equity educates the community about health equity, establishing and strengthening relationships with community health providers, medical professionals and stakeholders.

"Access to equitable health services is a basic human right," Neuhaus said. "That is why I have worked with our health department to focus on the important issue of health equity and stronger collaboration with our community partners."

John Kirksey, the former president of the National Multicultural Institute in Washington, D.C., will serve as the keynote speaker at the forum. Kirksey has also served as the Practice Leader for Diversity at Towers Perrin and PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer of Marsh McLennan Companies and AXA Equitable.

“All Orange County residents should have access to appropriate and value-based healthcare, to screenings for preventable diseases, to access to healthy foods, to ongoing healthy-living education, and to a healthy and safe place to live,” Avila said. “The Orange County Department of Health is committed to health equity by implementing public health strategies focused on addressing the health needs of all citizens and by promulgating policies of inclusion, so all have a voice.”

Panelists will include President and CEO of Cornerstone Family Healthcare Linda Muller, Jonathan Schiller, Chief Operating Officer of Orange Regional Medical Center, Joel Mittleman, Executive Director of Ezras Choilim Health Center, Inc., Harrison Moss from the New York State Department of Health Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention, Anna Trocino, Senior Market Manager, Community Engagement, the American Cancer Society and Dr. Michael Gawronski, SUNY Orange’s Associate Vice President for Health Professions. Orange County Epidemiologist Jacqueline Lawler and Director of Community Outreach Bob Deitrich will also speak will also speak at the event.

“Health is a basic human right and it affects every part of our lives,” said Ruben Estrada, Orange County’s Director of Health Equity. “While some factors of health are beyond human influence, we have the power to address the social injustices that might lead to health disparities.”

To register for the Health Equity Conference, call 360-6603 or 360-6613, or email cschaumburg@orangecountygov.com.

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