

Lillian Shirley, Director
Multnomah County/ Portland Health Department

Lillian Shirley, BSN, MPH, MPA, Director of the Multnomah County Health Department, provides public health leadership in collaboration with community partners to address the county's health needs, and offers health policy leadership on both a county and state level. Under her leadership, the county health department is recognized as a leader in public health performance receiving recognition for policy, practice and management innovations. These include innovative programs in nutrition labeling, tobacco control, adolescent services, HIV/AIDS, and community engagement. Her department, with elected officials, is leading a sustained effort to use the principal of equity as lens for county government decision making. She designed and led successful efforts in regionalization of public health communicable disease services and the extensive involvement of the business community in emergency preparedness. As a leader in agency management and operations, her health department has received recognition for its successful management culture and employee inclusiveness. Currently the department's Federally Qualified Health centers are engaged in a pioneering effort in collaboration with others to redesign the delivery of primary care services and funding in Oregon.

Prior to her work in Oregon, Ms. Shirley was the first Executive Director of the newly formed Boston Public Health Commission. In this role, she had executive responsibility for the establishment, design, and organization of the new public health authority in Boston. The Mayor of Boston appointed her that position after she participated in constructing the merger of Boston's public hospital with Boston University's medical center.

Following completion of her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, Ms. Shirley worked for the Boston City Hospital. Shirley served as Director of Joint Maternity Programs for Boston University Medical Center and the City of Boston's Department of Health Hospitals. Subsequently, as Director of Boston Public Health, she was responsible for all preventive and community-based health services including ambulances and homeless shelters. Early in her career, Ms. Shirley served as the executive director for Medical Aid for Indochina, a non-profit medical relief organization.

Ms. Shirley received a Master's Degree in Public Health from Boston University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Community and professional activities include, member of the boards of: Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute, Vice Chair of the Oregon Health Policy Board, the Board Vice President of the National Association of County and City Health officials (NACCHO), the Portland Multnomah Sustainability Commission, and is Board Vice-Chair of the Public Health Foundation in Washington DC. She also has appointments as adjunct Faculty OHSU Schools of Medicine Dept of Community Medicine and OHSU School of Nursing.

In 2008 she was named a "Public Health Hero" by Research!America, a national health education and advocacy alliance.