FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LAKE COUNTY FOCUSES ON HEALTH EQUITY DURING NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

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Eustis, Fla. –The Florida Department of Health in Lake County joins partners across the state and the nation to celebrate National Minority Health Month in April. This year's theme is Bridging Health Equity Across Communities and it reflects the department's commitment to ensuring Floridians in all communities have opportunities to achieve healthier outcomes.

Every Lake County and Florida resident should have the same opportunities to be as healthy as possible. said Aaron Kissler, Health Officer with the Florida Department of Health in Lake County. "This is why we all need to continue doing our part in raising awareness on the health disparities that affect minorities"

Florida has achieved lower morbidity and mortality rates across several different diseases, however, gaps continue to exist. All Floridians regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, geographic location and physical and developmental differences should be able to attain the highest level of health. Eliminating gaps between different communities and across all groups in Florida is a priority for the department.

The department's Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) works year round to promote several initiatives that support health equity in Florida including Closing the Gap grant, Florida's Healthy Babies initiative and HIV/AIDS outreach and prevention. OMHHE will continue to bridge efforts across Florida to help decrease and eliminate health disparities, accelerate health equity and to build stronger, healthier communities.

To learn more about projects and resources related to Minority Health Month, click here.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the <u>Public Health Accreditation Board</u>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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