



EMPLOYMENT &
HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Kathy Gallagher, Director

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To: All Staff, Code 2A

Date: March 19, 2021

From: Kathy Gallagher, Director

Subject: CWDA, California Health Agencies' Statement on Racism as a Public Health Crisis

Mounting recognition that racism is a public health crisis compelled the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and several California health agencies to issue a [joint statement](#). Adding to the voices and efforts of county leaders, including ours in Contra Costa, and public health officials across the state, CWDA joined County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), and California Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (CAPH) in declaring a shared commitment to dismantle systemic racism at all levels.

These organizations have expressed significant support through this statement. Racism has tremendous adverse impacts for all Californians, and I am encouraged by their pledge to work with county governments to address this critical public health issue.

Please follow the below links to see the joint statement and CWDA press release, as well as the Contra Costa resolution from last year.

[County Leaders Statement on Racism as a Public Health Crisis](#)

[CWDA Press Release \(March 16, 2020\)](#)

[Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Resolution \(November 2020\)](#)