



## MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Feb. 2017)

APPROVED: MULTNOMAH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA # R.2 DATE 10/25/18  
TAJA NELSON, ASST. BOARD CLERK

### Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 10/25/18  
Agenda Item #: R.2  
Est. Start Time: 9:45 a.m.  
Date Submitted: 10/15/18

Agenda Title: **Proclaiming October, 2018 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County.**

Requested Meeting Date:	October 25, 2018	Time Needed:	20 minutes
Department:	County Human Services	Division:	Youth & Family Services
Contact(s):	Peggy Samolinski		
Phone:	503-988-7453	Ext.	87453
		Email:	peggy.l.samolinski@multco.us
Presenters:	Peggy Samolinski, Director, DCHS Youth and Family Services Division and invited guests.		

### General Information

#### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

We respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Proclamation declaring October 2018 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County. The 2018 national theme is "Awareness + Action = Social Change," which focuses on the importance of voting and civic engagement as an essential part of raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence, and illustrating the connections between voting, advocacy, and informing public policies that impact survivors' lives.

#### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

In October 1987, the first official Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed nationally. Since then, our country has taken great strides in addressing domestic and sexual violence by supporting victims, holding abusers accountable, and creating and updating legislation to further those goals. In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) which funds state, tribal, and local governments, and non-profit organizations focused on ending violence against women. Over the last three decades, we've seen a dramatic expansion in services for victims of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and dating violence, and increased support

and resources for training and prevention efforts. Multnomah County has also directly funded and provided domestic violence services for many years.

Though national, state, and local programs continue to work to prevent and respond to violence, much work still remains to be done. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to reflect on the progress we've made, honor survivors and their communities, and acknowledge the tremendous work that remains. As indicated in this year's theme, it is vital that everyone in our community does what they can to raise awareness of the impacts of domestic violence and take action in support of survivors.

Multnomah County has a long history of recognizing Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office organizes and coordinates community-wide events throughout the month bringing awareness to this important topic, recognizing the lives lost to domestic violence in the last year, and honoring those working in this field.

The Multnomah County Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (DSVCO) provides a continuum of trauma-informed and culturally-responsive services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and other community members. The prevention and intervention strategies developed and coordinated by DSVCO are used by the City of Portland, Multnomah County, and by community agencies to promote individual, community, and societal level change. To thrive after abuse, survivors and their children need safe housing, flexible economic resources, and other support that promotes stability. DSVCO funds programs that provide ongoing connection with advocates, survivor support groups, economic empowerment programs, credit remediation assistance, housing, legal services and other supportive services.

Adopting the proclamation does not directly impact any program offer, but will help promote awareness of the issue of domestic and sexual violence, and the DSVCO programs in place to prevent it and help survivors heal.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

N/A.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

N/A.

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.** The 2018 national theme is "Awareness + Action = Social Change," which focuses on the importance of voting and civic engagement as an essential part of raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence, and illustrating the connections between voting, advocacy, and informing public policies that impact survivors' lives. Multnomah County's Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation encourages community participation by urging all county residents to reflect upon this year's theme, and consider the impact that laws, policies, and elected officials have on the safety, health, economic security, and well-being of survivors.

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected  
Official or  
Department  
Director:**

Peggy Brey /s/

**Date:**

10/15/2018

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

Proclaiming October, 2018 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- A. Domestic violence is a complex, far-reaching problem that impacts everyone in our community regardless of race, gender, orientation, education, socioeconomic status, religion, or ability.
- B. Although domestic violence can affect anyone, marginalized groups experience higher rates of domestic violence due to systemic barriers, inequities, and oppression in our service systems.
- C. One in five homicides in Oregon are related to intimate partner violence, causing at least 29 Oregonians to lose their lives in 2017. Over half of the women in Oregon have experienced some form of sexual or domestic violence.
- D. One in fifteen children are exposed to domestic violence every year and between 30 and 60 percent of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the home. Exposure to domestic violence harms children and places them at risk of experiencing further violence.
- E. Domestic violence is a significant contributing factor to unemployment and poverty. Oregon is one of the least affordable states for childcare and our gender wealth gap is among the largest in the nation. It is therefore not surprising that Oregon also has one of the highest rates of domestic violence in the country.
- F. Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women in Oregon. On September 13th, 2018, the National Census of Domestic Violence Services found that on that one day alone, 169 survivors of domestic violence in Oregon requested housing or shelter and were denied due to a lack of availability.
- G. Domestic violence is not inevitable. The impact and prevalence of domestic violence is affected by a variety of public policies and programs. Survivors experience greater danger if they do not have access to a living wage, paid family leave, affordable housing, and affordable childcare.
- H. Promoting civic engagement is an essential part of raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence, and illustrating the connections between voting, advocacy, and informing public policies that impact survivors' lives.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

1. The month of October 2018 is proclaimed to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Multnomah County.
2. All county residents are encouraged to reflect upon this year's theme, "Awareness + Action = Social Change," and consider the impact that laws, policies, and elected officials have on the safety, health, economic security, and well-being of survivors. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Multnomah County encourages individuals to consider how voting and civic engagement inform policies that impact survivors' lives.

**ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

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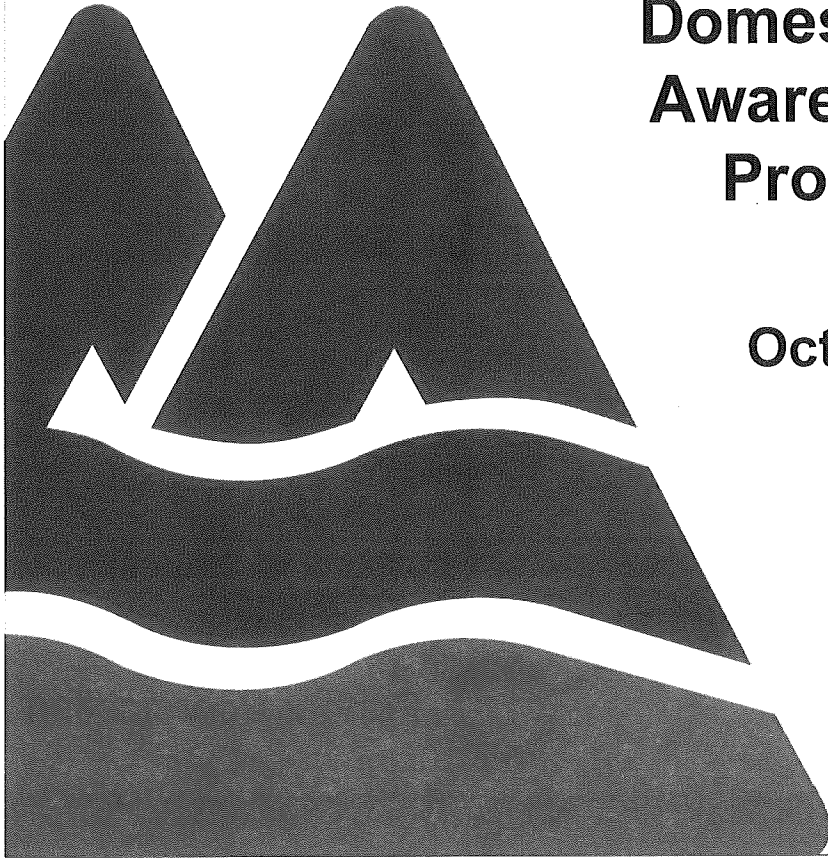
Deborah Kafoury, Chair

**REVIEWED:**  
**JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Peggy Samolinski, Director, DCHS Youth and Family Services



# **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation**

**October 25, 2018**

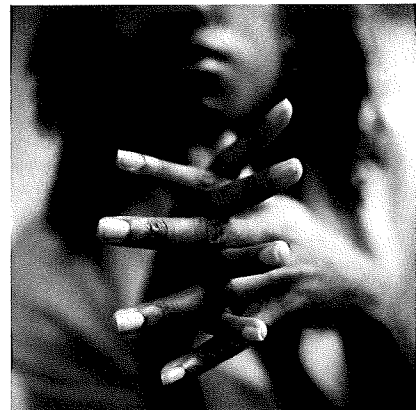
Department of County  
Human Services

Youth and Family  
Services Division

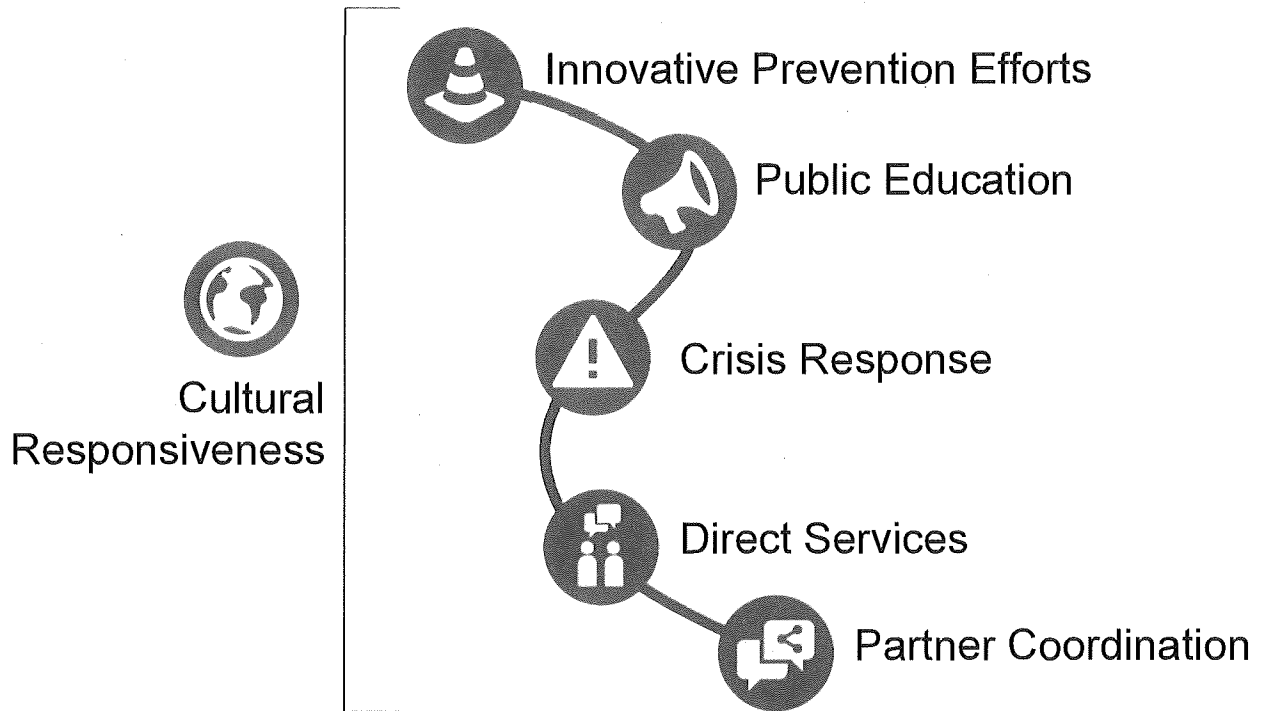
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## **Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (DSVCO) Services**

- Provides funding to community based organizations helping survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence and sex trafficked youth
- Funds 12 domestic and sexual violence organizations
  - 7 culturally specific providers
  - 3 sexual assault services providers

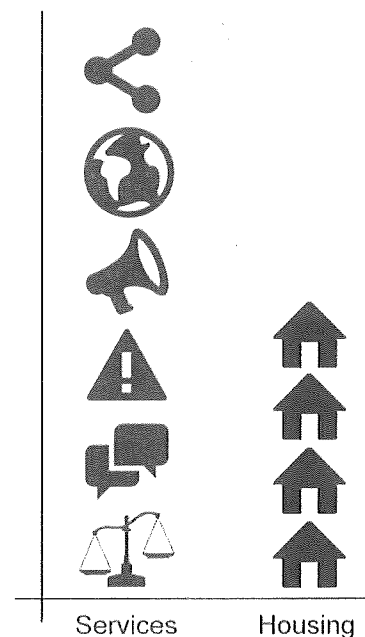


# DVSCO Approach



## Results

- 471 people served in Emergency Shelter in 2018
- 1,873 survivors were served in domestic and sexual violence housing programs



# McNeff's Open Doors for Survivors with Disabilities

## Speakers

**Jan Campbell**, Advocate  
Disability Awareness Resource Team (Project DART)

**Abby Gassama**, Healing Circle Manager  
Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)

**Ashley Carroll**, Program Specialist  
Multnomah County

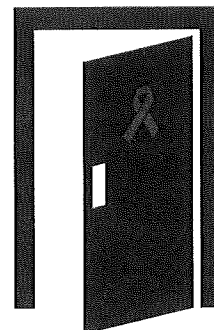


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# McNeff's Open Doors for Survivors with Disabilities

- Formed in 2015
- Partners include:
  - Multnomah County DCHS
  - Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)
  - Raphael House of Portland
  - Project DART

**McNeff's Open Doors**  
FOR SURVIVORS WITH DISABILITIES



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# Open Doors Goal

Improve accessibility and safety in domestic violence and disability fields

**A. Accessibility/Physical Location**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Is there public transportation that makes the location accessible?	Is the route from public transportation to the location accessible?	Is the agency easy to find from the nearest transit stop?	Are agency signs easy to read and clear?	Are the sidewalks easy to navigate for a person in a wheelchair?		

**B. Welcoming**

1	2
Do you have a positive first impression of this location (other customers, employees)?	Is the area around the facility clean?

**C. Personal Safety**

1	2	3	4	5
Is this location free from carjacking, rape, etc.?	Is the location well-lit and visible?	Are there nearby resources to call for help (police, fire, etc.)?	Is the facility wheelchair accessible to the public?	Is the area free from public trash cans, graffiti, etc.?

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“They are willing [to accommodate] but it depends on how much I am able to advocate for myself.”

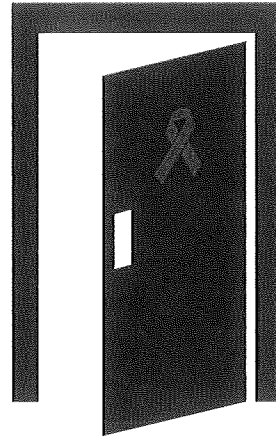
- Person with a disability

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## Open Doors Has Done

- Needs Assessment interviewing 96 individuals
- Strategic Planning process
- Safety and Access Reviews
- Policy review and recommendations
- Staff training and experiential events
- Received continuation grant of \$325,000 for two additional years



## Questions?

## Approval of the Proclamation

