

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

|                                    |   |            |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Resolution to establish a Parent   | ) | RESOLUTION |
| Education Program in the Multnomah | ) | 96-186     |
| County Family Court                | ) |            |

**WHEREAS**, the divorce rate in Oregon is one of the highest in the country with 700 of every 1,000 marriages ending in divorce; and,

**WHEREAS**, studies indicate that in Multnomah County, an estimated sixty percent of divorcing families have children under the age of 18; and

**WHEREAS**, the behavior of divorcing parents during and after their divorce has a direct impact on how well children do in school, in the community, and in their personal relationships; and,

**WHEREAS**, studies indicate it is not the divorce which hurts children, it is the conflict between parents before and after the divorce that harms children. Parents in the process of divorce are often unable to help or are unaware of the emotional strain their children are experiencing; and,

**WHEREAS**, in order to reduce the adverse effects of divorce on children, there is need for a program to educate parents on the development stages and how these relate to divorce, help parents identify problem behaviors and find resources, and give parents strategies for better co-parenting; and,

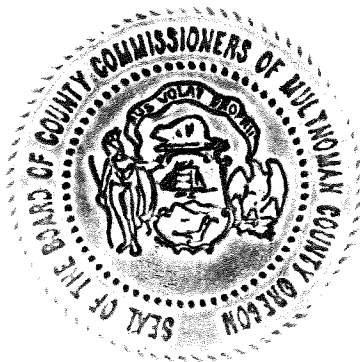
**WHEREAS**, the Multnomah County court system does not currently have a parent education program in place to deal with these issues; and,

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that Multnomah County will work with the Multnomah County family court system to establish a Parent Education Program for all Multnomah County residents who have children under the age of 18 and are in the process of filing for divorce, legal separation, annulment, custody modifications and/or visitation modifications. Completion of the Parent Education Program shall be mandatory before final court action is taken; and,

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Family Court Services office of the Department of Community Corrections will develop the Parenting Education Program to include evening sessions convenient for parents, including a weekend day; and,

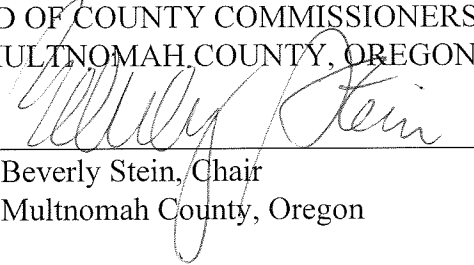
**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the goal of Multnomah County is to have the Parent Education Program fully operational no later than February of 1997.

**ADOPTED** this 17th day of October, 1996

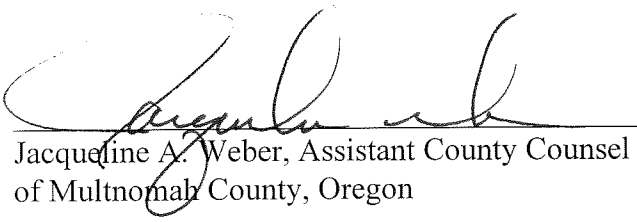


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

BY

  
Beverly Stein, Chair  
Multnomah County, Oregon

REVIEWED BY:

  
Jacqueline A. Weber, Assistant County Counsel  
of Multnomah County, Oregon