



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/3/2014)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 3/16/17
Agenda Item #: R.1
Est. Start Time: 9:30 am
Date Submitted: 3/7/17

Agenda Title: **Board Briefing on School Attendance Starts Before the Bell**

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but be sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: March 16, 2017 **Time Needed:** 45 minutes
Department: County Human Services **Division:** Youth and Family Services
Contact(s): Peggy Samolinski
Phone: 503 988 7453 **Ext.** 87453 **I/O Address:** 167/2
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Liesl Wendt, Director, County Human Services, Peggy Samolinski, Co-Director, Youth and Family Services Division, and invited guests

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

This is an informational briefing on the Department of County Human Services' efforts to improve educational outcomes for youth through attendance support strategies.

As a County, it is our job to ensure that the future is in good hands, and that means making sure ALL young people have access to a full range of opportunities throughout their childhood, so that they can take their place in stewarding our community when their turn comes.

Attendance is a leading indicator of childhood success now and in the future. Unfortunately, communities with lower incomes and communities of color have historically faced barriers to the wide range of issues that contribute to a child getting to school regularly and ready to learn - many of which start before the bell even rings. That's why the County has teamed up with public, private and school district partners to address issues of housing, health, nutrition, safety, stability and more. Through our culturally specific and responsive lens we have seen clear results for the communities that need it the most. We look forward to sharing what we've done and learned.

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

"Chronic absence" is defined as missing 10% or more of school days. One out of five K-12 students are chronically absent in Multnomah County, and that rate increases to two out of five children from families who are economically disadvantaged. These concerning statistics were the impetus for action on behalf of children in Multnomah County three years ago.

Research shows that absences are a leading indicator for future student success. In fact, 2 absences per month lead to a lower likelihood of graduating. Absences are such an important indicator that poor attendance in 6th grade is a clear sign that a child is likely to drop out of school and by the 9th grade, good attendance is a stronger predictor that a student will graduate than test scores.

The FY17 program offers reflected in this briefing information are PO# 25159A & B.

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

No fiscal impact for this year.

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

No legal or policy issues.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The department's attendance efforts are supported through collaboration with our SUN School District partners, All Hands Raised, Oregon Department of Human Services and United Way of the Columbia Willamette.

Required Signature

Elected Official

or Department/

Agency Director:

Liesl Wendt /s/

03/07/2017

Date:

Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved."