



Commemorating Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 2016

Department of County Human Services
Youth and Family Services Division

Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (DSVCO)

The Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office (DSVCO) was established in 1994. Located within the Department of County Human Services (DCHS), it does not provide services directly, but rather is responsible for facilitating the development and coordination of effective domestic violence intervention and prevention strategies for the City of Portland and Multnomah County government and community agencies.

In Multnomah County...

14 agencies provide domestic violence services

9 agencies provide culturally specific services

6 agencies provide sexual assault specific services

More than 3,000 individuals receive services such as legal advocacy each year.

1,144 survivors were housed in a shelter or received an emergency housing voucher in 2015.



Our Approach

The DSVCO and its partner agencies take a multi-pronged, multi-disciplinary approach to address domestic violence in our community

- Crisis Response - Helping survivors who are currently experiencing violence
- Prevention - Innovative approaches to stop the cycle of violence
- Education - Teaching the public, partners and institutions about violence
- Systems Coordination - Partnerships with other providers who work with survivors
- Cultural Responsiveness - Ensuring that communities of color and LGBTQ have meaningful access to services

Our work is:

- Data driven
- Collaborative
- Trauma-informed
- Culturally competent
- Responsive to changes in the community
- Utilizes best practices



Responding to Violence

The Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT) project is a nationally recognized model of intervention that places an emphasis on identifying and providing coordinated, multi-disciplinary responses to domestic violence cases in Multnomah County that are identified as high risk for lethality.

DVERT works collaboratively with system partners to address domestic violence by:

- Enhancing the safety of high-risk-for-lethality victims, children and animals.
- Ensuring appropriate containment of high-risk offenders.
- Facilitating local community-oriented policing initiatives.
- Providing specialized training locally and nationally-- including on strangulation, stalking, and lethality; and
- Supporting communities seeking to develop and sustain similar collaborative efforts.



Preventing Violence in Multnomah County

Defending Childhood Initiative

The Defending Childhood Initiative (DCI) works with multi-disciplinary partners to enhance professionals' capacity to recognize, respond to and prevent childhood exposure to all forms of violence and trauma. DCI trains over 1000 people each year who work with children and youth, equipping them with knowledge and strategies to support those who have been exposed to violence and trauma.

DCI Successful Partnerships

- Reynolds and Portland Public School District - training and tools to support the trauma informed classrooms.
- Multnomah Youth Commission , Mayor Hales' Office, and the Portland Police Bureau - developed an informational film for police officers on how to respond to youth reporting dating and sexual violence.

DCI Training

- Training on domestic and sexual violence topics
- 1240 individuals were trained in 2015

DCI Consultation

- Case consultation for DCHS staff serving clients experiencing impact of domestic violence
- Consulted on 84 cases in 2015

DCI Staff Support

- Consultation and support to Multnomah County staff experiencing domestic violence
- Provided support to 9 employees in 2015



Bridging barriers between service systems

DSVCO actively partners with other systems serving survivors to ensure an accessible system of care.

Open Doors grant

New grant to improve the access and services for survivors with physical disabilities who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. Partners include: Adult Protective Services, Veteran's Services Office, Independent Living Resources, Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), Project Disability Awareness Resource Team (DART), and Raphael House

Women with disabilities have a 40% greater risk of violence than women without disabilities

Community-based Sexual Assault Services



Mobile outreach to homeless populations and culturally specific agencies serving marginalized populations. Services include medical and legal advocacy, case management, support groups, counseling, and flexible client funds for emergency needs. Staff also work with colleges/universities to conduct targeted outreach and recommend ways to improve local responses to sexual assault. Partners include: Multnomah County Sexual Assault Advisory Committee and El Programa Hispano Catolica Unica .

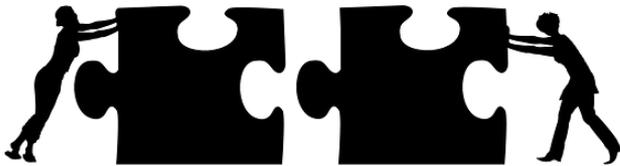


Helping survivors access housing

Resource Coordination Team

The Resource Coordination Team (RCT) is an innovative collaboration in domestic and sexual violence services in Multnomah County that ensures best resource at best time

- Prior to RCT, housing access varied by agency
- Survivors now have access at all 12 agencies.
- Agency staff administer a standardized needs assessment
- RCT meets twice monthly to review assessments.
- Available housing slots are assigned based on need and vulnerability



In FY16, 94% of participants exited to permanent housing

Average length of stay was 373 days

334 individuals from 107 households were served

84% of participants identified as being from a community of color

81% were Female Single Parent households, 19% were Single Individuals



Culturally Specific Services

Access to culturally specific services increases the efficacy of domestic violence services. Services that are developed and delivered by specific communities better match the needs and values of the survivors they are intended to serve.

DSVCO provides population-specific domestic and sexual violence services, including trauma-informed care, ongoing risk assessment, safety planning, intensive support, advocacy, case management, and help accessing other community resources.

Targeted populations include:

African American, Latino, Native American, Slavic/Russian immigrants, African immigrants, LGBTQ, seniors and people with disabilities.



Services provided:

- Legal Assistance
- Benefits Acquisition
- Disability Services
- Housing Assistance
- Financial Education
- Access to healthcare services
- Employment Training and Assistance



A look ahead

In coming year, using our strategic plan we are increasing our focus on:

- Sexual assault
- LGBTQ services
- Economic empowerment
- Collaboration with other service systems



Questions?

Approval of Proclamation

