

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 99-183

Creating a Siting Advisory Committee to Recommend a Site for a new Child Abuse Center

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In May of 1996 the voters of Multnomah County approved Ballot Measure No. 26-45, authorizing the issuing of \$79.7 million in General Obligation Bonds to be used for facilities that would improve public safety, including “a Child Abuse Center that responds to increased victimization of children and, the excess time many children spend in police custody waiting for placement and evaluation” and, on October 1, 1996 the County issued the Public Safety General Obligation Bonds to fund that center.
- b. The remaining project authorized under Measure No. 26-45 is the Child Abuse Center, for which some of the arguments were:
 - i. Over 2000 times a year, a child in Multnomah County must be removed from their home for their own safety;
 - ii. Because there is no 24-hour facility consistently available to take in and care for a child, children are sometimes forced to ride in the back of a patrol car or sit at a caseworker’s desk for hours, while attempts at placement are made;
 - iii. Children are further traumatized by multiple foster home placements, and little chance for visitation with birth parents for family reunification.
- c. The current a system limits opportunities for family visitation and family reunification efforts.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. A Siting Advisory Committee (SAC) will be appointed by the Chair to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners a site for the new Child Abuse Center, also known as the Child Receiving Center;
2. The SAC will have up to ten members including representatives from the Office of the District Attorney, the Portland Police Child Abuse Team, the State Office of Services to Children and Families, the Lead Planning Agency (Christie School), and other interested persons from the community;

3. The SAC will explore improved or unimproved properties that could serve as a location for the Child Receiving Center, and potential co-located services under three general scenarios:
 - a. The Receiving Center with a child/family service facility, not to exceed \$4,000,000; or,
 - b. The Receiving Center complex with the MDT/CAT co-located on a single site, at about \$6,000,000 but in no case to exceed \$7,000,000; or,
 - c. The Receiving Center and MDT/CAT co-developed on separate but conveniently located sites at about \$6,000,000 but in no case to exceed \$7,000,000, or as further directed by the Board of County Commissioners.
4. The Child Receiving Center functions shall receive priority in selection of properties and design;
5. The Child Receiving Center should provide a residential feel for the children housed there and should provide sufficient space for services to abused and neglected children in a safe and child-friendly environment;
6. The SAC will use the above criteria and develop additional essential siting criteria referenced in the siting plan to be approved by the Chair to guide their recommendations;
7. The SAC will make recommendations under the various scenarios to the Board of County Commissioners by October 26, 1999.

Approved this 16th day of September 1999.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Beverly Stein

Beverly Stein, Chair

Thomas Sponsler, County Counsel
For Multnomah County, Oregon

By *Thomas Sponsler*
Thomas Sponsler, County Counsel