



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(revised 12/31/09)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 4/29/2010
Agenda Item #: R-8
Est. Start Time: 10:55 am
Date Submitted: 4/15/2010

Agenda Title: Resolution Establishing an Interdepartmental Work Group on Children and Families in Foster Care

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date: April 29, 2010 Amount of Time Needed: 10 minutes
Department: Non-Departmental Division: Commission on Children, Families and Community
Contact(s): Joshua Todd, Aaron Ridings (D1 x85220)
Phone: 86981 Ext. I/O Address: 167/200
Presenter(s): Joshua Todd

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Adopt resolution establishing an interdepartmental workgroup to coordinate county services to children and families engaged in the child welfare system.

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.

Over sixty programs provided by Multnomah County serve the needs of children or families engaged with the Child Welfare system. These 60 programs exist across five different departments and impact dozens of program offers in Multnomah County's adopted budget. Additionally, in 2009 over 2,800 incidents of child abuse and neglect were reported in Multnomah County. Multnomah County has a higher foster care placement rate than both the National and State averages. Children of color, especially Native American and African American children, experience disproportional engagement in child welfare as compared to white children.

It is important that Multnomah County lead efforts to safely and equitably reduce the incidents of abuse, neglect and foster care placement. This resolution requests the board to form an interdepartmental workgroup to study the County's current investments that support children and

families in child welfare, look for opportunities to achieve better outcomes by increasing coordination and collaboration, and reduce practices or systemic barriers which lead to racial disproportionality.

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

The workgroup will be staffed by the Commission on Children, Families & Community using current resources. Creation of this workgroup will have no direct impact on the County's budget in this fiscal year or FY11. The intention is that this workgroup will report back to the County Board in January of 2011 with any recommendations which could shift program, policies, or funding in ways that improve outcomes for children and families served by both Multnomah County and Oregon Department of Human Services: Child Welfare.

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

This does not have any current impacts but the results of the workgroup could lead to policy recommendations for County Commissioners to consider in the future.

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

The Commission on Children, Families & Community is the local convener of a statewide effort to safely and equitably reduce the number of children in foster care. This effort includes engagement from many community partners, providers, communities of color as well as parents, youth, and Department of Human Services.

Required Signature

**Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:**



Date: 04/15/2010