



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/3/2014)

## Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 1/27/15  
Agenda Item #: B.3  
Est. Start Time: 11:15 am  
Date Submitted: 1.13.15

**Agenda Title:** **Board Briefing on Changes to Health Care Impacting Transgender Residents Receiving Services from Multnomah County.**

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

**Requested Meeting Date:** January 27, 2015 **Time Needed:** 30 minutes  
**Department:** Non-Departmental **Division:** Chair's Office  
**Contact(s):** Aaron Ridings, Chair's Office  
**Phone:** 503-988-8428 **Ext.** 88428 **I/O Address:** 501/6  
**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** Jenn Burleton, Executive Director, TransActive Gender Center, and invited guests

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Receive an informational briefing from TransActive Gender Center on changes to healthcare impacting transgender residents receiving services from Multnomah County.

### 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.

On January 1, 2015, the Oregon Health Plan will begin coverage of medical procedures and treatments for transgender Oregonians. Included in this coverage is pubertal suppression and gender affirming hormone treatment for hundreds of transgender adolescent and youth residents of Multnomah County. Oregon is the first state to include this aspect of transgender care.

While there is growing awareness of discrepancies that exists in healthcare for transgender adults, there is far less awareness and understanding of the immensely positive impact that early treatment of transgender adolescents can have on their lifelong psychological well-being, physical health and economic security.

Early intervention through pubertal suppression and cross-sex/gender affirming hormone treatment substantially reduces or eliminates costs related to trauma-induced mental health care and corrective esthetic and surgical treatments and procedures such as electrolysis and laser hair removal, voice therapy/voice surgery, mastectomy, hair transplantation, etc.

At present, despite statistics that clearly demonstrate transgender adolescents and youth

experience dramatically heightened levels of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts (related to societal and familial rejection) denial of access to the gender affirming mental health or medical care described above is not currently seen as negligent by mandatory reporters including those in private practice, institutions, governmental agencies, schools, health centers, youth detention facilities or family courts.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Expanding education and training to those working with transgender and, equally importantly, gender diverse children, youth and their families in Multnomah County will benefit not only those individuals and families in particular, but all families in Multnomah County. TransActive Gender Center looks forward to providing education, training and advocacy capabilities to help Multnomah County continue to stand at the forefront of transgender inclusion and equality and to expand understanding that affirming transgender adolescent access to medically approved preventative healthcare is life-saving.

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**Required Signature**

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**Elected Official**

**or Department/**

**Agency Director:**

Nancy Bennett, Chief of Staff /s/

1/13/2015

**Date:**

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