



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST (long form)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 5/17/12
Agenda Item #: R.5
Est. Start Time: 11:30 am
Date Submitted: 4/10/12

Agenda Title: **RESOLUTION to Approve Safety First Supervised Parenting Time Program Fees**

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title.

Requested Meeting Date: May 3, 2012 **Amount of Time Needed:** 10 minutes
Department: Family Court Services **Division:** DCJ – JSD
Contact(s): Janice Garceau
Phone: 503.988.3189 **Ext.** 22195 **I/O Address:** Bldg. 101/3/350
Presenter(s): Janice Garceau, Program Manager; Robert Stoll, Finance Supervisor; Judge Tennyson

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval to charge a sliding scale fee for supervised parenting time and safe exchange services.

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.

Family Court Services has received grant funding from the Office on Violence Against Women to develop and provide supervised parenting time and safe exchange services to families in the tri-county area impacted by domestic violence. This is currently a critical gap in services for victims of domestic violence.

The program, called Safety First, plans to charge a fee for supervised visits and safe exchanges. The fee will be assessed according to the attached sliding scale, which is based on federal poverty guidelines and updated annually. The primary purpose of the fee is to create incentives for participants to comply with policies and procedures surrounding attendance, timely arrival and appropriate cancelation of visits/exchanges.

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

Given the parameters of the sliding scale and the demographics of the population served, FCS does not anticipate that fee revenue will be significant. At most, it may offset annual materials and

supplies and/or interpreter costs.

A rough estimate projects that 70 percent of clients will qualify for the \$2.00 per visit fee, generating approximately \$2,000.00 annually. If the remaining 30 percent of clients pay a fee in the range of \$15.00 per service, estimated revenue would be an additional \$6,000.00 per year. Total fee revenue is therefore not likely to exceed \$8,000.00 to \$10,000 per year.

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

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) requires clear written policies and procedures around the assessment and collection of fees. OVW requires that programs have the capacity to adjust fees based on safety concerns, fairness and without penalizing victims of domestic violence. Attached is Safety First's written policy regarding the assessment and collection of program fees.

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

Safety First receives oversight from a Consulting Committee made up of judicial officers, domestic violence service organizations, law enforcement, and batterer intervention agencies from the three counties that meet quarterly to review and approve program policies and procedures. In addition, a Core Planning Committee made up of a judge from each county, a domestic violence advocate from each county, the Safety First Program Coordinator and the Family Court Services Manager meets monthly to develop policy and program design. These groups broadly represent the constituents to be served and will continue to meet and have a role in policy development and program oversight for the duration of the program's existence.

Required Signature

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



Date: April 9, 2012