

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY EAST BUILDING, Sharron Kelley Room, 600 NE 8th St.,  
Gresham, Oregon  
Wednesday, May 10, 2018**

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING C**

Chair Deborah Kafoury called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with Vice-Chair Lori Stegmann and Commissioners Sharon Meieran, Jessica Vega Pederson and Loretta Smith present.

Also attending was Lynda Grow, Board Clerk.

Chair Kafoury: GREAT. THANK YOU. WELCOME. MY NAME IS DEBORAH KAFOURY. AND I'M YOUR MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHAIR. DON'T IS OUR THIRD AND FINAL BUDGET HEARING. THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE STILL DON'T WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS AFTER TONIGHT. IF SOMETHING COMES UP THAT YOU WANT TO CONTACT ANY OF OUR OFFICES, WE ARE ALL HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU. APPRECIATE THE GREAT TURN OUT TONIGHT. I'M GOING TO HAVE EVERYONE INTRODUCE THEMSELVES AND THEN WE CAN GET STARTED.

Commissioner Stegmann: THANK YOU, CHAIR. WELCOME, EVERYONE, TO MY DISTRICT. IT'S GREAT TO SEE ALL OF YOU HERE. AND THANK YOU FOR SHOWING UP TO REPRESENT THE CONCERNS OF OUR COMMUNITY. OUR DISTRICT GOES FROM SOUTHEAST 148TH IN PORTLAND ALL THE WAY UP PAST MULTNOMAH FALLS. INCLUDES GRESHAM FAIRVIEW, TROUT, TROUTDALE, WOOD VILLAGE AND SOUTHEAST PORTLAND. SO WELCOME.

Commissioner Vega Pederson: GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. I'M JESSICA VEGA PETERSON. I'M THE COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT THREE WHICH STARTS ON 148TH AND GOES WEST ALL THE WAY TO CAESAR CHAVEZ AVENUE. AND IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE HERE IN DISTRICT FOUR. I DID WANT TO POINT OUT THAT I HAVE MY STAFF, MY CONSTITUENT LIAISON, HAYDEN MILLER, HE'S HERE TO HELP ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS IF YOU ARE A CONSTITUENT OR ANY PROGRAMS YOU ARE WORKING ON THAT YOU WANT TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT. THANK YOU.

Commissioner Smith: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS LORETTA SMITH. AND I'M A COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT TWO WHICH SURROUNDS INNER NORTH AND NORTHEAST PORTLAND OUT TO SAINT JOHNS. AND I COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO THE ROCK WOOD AREA TO 201ST. BUT IT'S ALONG THE WILKS NEIGHBORHOOD. AND IT IS GREAT TO BE HERE. YOU ALL HAVE SHOWED UP

AGAIN. THIS IS MY SIXTH ONE. YAY. AND THIS IS A GREAT TURN OUT. THANKS FOR COMING.

Commissioner Meieran: HI. MY NAME IS COMMISSIONER SHARON MEIERAN. AND I REPRESENT DISTRICT ONE WHICH IS ALL OF THE WEST SIDE OF PORTLAND. SO THAT'S OUT SALVI ISLAND THROUGH DOWNTOWN AND SOUTH BEYOND THAT. AND INNER SOUTHEAST. SO OUT TO CAESAR CHAVEZ IS MY DISTRICT. SO IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE. WELCOME. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

Chair Kafoury: I'D ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT WE HAVE INTERPRETER SERVICES. MARINA OVER HERE IN THE RED SWEATER IF YOU NEED ANY INTERPRETATION, SHE CAN HELP YOU. AND WE ARE A LOTTING TWO MINUTES PER SPEAKER TONIGHT. WE HAVE HOW MANY FOLKS SIGNED UP? WE HAVE OVER 50 PEOPLE. SO WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE HEAR FROM EVERYONE. IF I GIVE YOU THAT WRAP IT UP SIGN, MEANS WE HAVE A LOT MORE PEOPLE AND WANT TO HEAR FROM EVERYONE. PLEASE TRY TO STICK TO YOUR TWO MINUTES. IF YOU HAVE WRITTEN TESTIMONY, YOU CAN ALWAYS SUBMIT THAT. WE ALL HAVE STAFF HERE. IF YOU WORK FOR ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS IN THE BACK, CAN YOU RAISE YOUR HAND, FOLKS? THERE'S A LOT OF FOLKS HERE TO HELP ANSWER QUESTIONS. I MAY DIRECT YOU TO THEM IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS GOING BEYOND YOUR TWO MINUTES. ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. LET'S GET STARTED.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

John Perkins: MY NAME IS JOHN PERKINS. GOOD EVENING, CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF COLLEGE POSSIBLE. MY NAME IS JOHN PERKINS. IN MY ROLE AS PROGRAM COORDINATOR, I MANAGE A GROUP OF COLLEGE POSSIBLE AMERICORE COACHES AND COORDINATE OUR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM. THROUGH INTENSIVE PEER COUNSELING SUPPORT LOW INCOME STUDENTS MANY OF WHOM ARE FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS OF COLOR TO ACHIEVE DREAMS OF ATTENDING COLLEGE AND EARNING A COLLEGE DEGREE. ONE OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL COACHES IS HERE TONIGHT. AND I'VE SEEN HOW THE RELATIONSHIPS SHE'S DEVELOPED WITH HER STUDENTS AT MADISON HIGH SCHOOL, STUDENTS LIKE ESME AND EVELYN AND DALLAS AND FELIPE EMPOWER THEM TO WORK HARD TO OVERCOME SYSTEMIC BARRIERS AND REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL. OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SUN IS KEY TO THE SUCCESS. AS THE RELATIONSHIP BUILDING BETWEEN ORGANIZATION GROUNDS ALL OF OUR WORK IN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES. WE WORK COLLECTIVELY TO OFFER STUDENTS ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. HAVING SCHOOL PARTNERS LIKE COLLEGE POSSIBLE ENHANCES AND STRENGTHENS THE SUN PROGRAM IN OUR SCHOOLS. IN RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE PROGRAMS, YOU CREATED THE SUN SCHOOL INNOVATION FUND LAST YEAR. FOR \$250,000. WE ARE

HERE TODAY TO REQUEST THAT YOU REINSTATE THAT FUND AND CONSIDER COLLEGE POSSIBLE AS A PARTNER TO CONTINUE THE SUN SERVICE PAST HIGH SCHOOL TO ENSURE LOW INCOME STUDENTS NOT ONLY HAVE ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION BUT HAVE THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO INTRODUCE ESMERELDA, A MADISON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR AND COLLEGE POSSIBLE STUDENT.

Esmerelda Calderone: SO MY NAME IS ESMERELDA. AND I DON'T HAVE A DAD. MY DAD LEFT MY FAMILY WHEN I WAS 6 YEARS OLD BECAUSE HE WAS ON, LIKE, EVERY DRUG EVER. SO I WAS RAISED IN A SINGLE HOME. IT WAS ME AND MY OLDER BROTHER. MY MOM DIDN'T EVEN MAKE IT TO MIDDLE SCHOOL. SHE'S AN IMMIGRANT FROM MEXICO. SHE TRIED HARD TO GIVE ME AND MY BROTHER THE BEST POSSIBLE STANDING IN EDUCATION. BUT MY BROTHER DIDN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT I HAVE LIKE WITH COLLEGE POSSIBLE. AND HE IS HE'S NOT DOING THE BEST. I'M NOT GOING TO HATE ON MY BROTHER BUT HE'S NOT DOING THE BEST. COLLEGE REALLY WASN'T SOMETHING THAT I WAS GOING TO BE DOING WHEN I WAS LITTLE. IT WASN'T UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL WHERE I FELT LIKE I HAD TO DO SOMETHING BECAUSE I COME FROM SUCH A LOW BACKGROUND. AND COLLEGE POSSIBLE OPENED UP MY MIND TO ALL OF THE POSSIBILITIES THAT I DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED. THE HIGHEST THAT I EVER THOUGHT I COULD REACH FOR WAS A PUBLIC STATE SCHOOL AND I COULDN'T DREAM BEYOND THAT.

Esmerelda Calderone: BUT THROUGH COLLEGE POSSIBLE AND THE AMAZING COACH THAT THEY PAIRED ME WITH, I'VE BECOME SO MUCH MORE THAN THE PLAN I ORIGINALLY MADE FOR MYSELF. BEING FIRST GENERATION JUST LIKE THE MAJORITY OF MY COHORT, I DIDN'T HAVE A PARENT TO GUIDE ME THROUGH THE PROCESS THAT IS REALLY MADE BY A SYSTEM THAT IS DESIGNED TO MAKE US FAIL. AND I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING WITHOUT COLLEGE POSSIBLE. IT HELPED ME GET ONE OF THE HIGHEST ACT SCORES IN MY CLASS. BECAUSE OF MY COACH, I APPLIED FOR AND GOT A REALLY COMPETITIVE FLY IN PROGRAM AND I APPLIED TO 7 SCHOLARSHIPS AND 16 COLLEGES WITH SOME OF THEM BEING COLLECTIVE SCHOOLS. WE'RE NOT DONE.

Chair Kafoury: WE NEED TO KNOW. WE'RE DYING TO KNOW.

Esmerelda Calderone: BASICALLY, WHEN I SAY I'M GOING TO COLLEGE BECAUSE OF COLLEGE POSSIBLE, I'M GOING TO COLLEGE BECAUSE OF COLLEGE POSSIBLE. AND I KNOW THAT TO BE TRUE NOT JUST FOR ME BUT SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE. AND I OWE SO MUCH TO COLLEGE POSSIBLE.

Chair Kafoury: DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING TO SCHOOL?

Esmerelda Calderone: I STARTED APPLYING LAST JUNE.

Chair Kafoury: WILL YOU PLEASE LET US KNOW?

Esmerelda Calderone: I STARTED APPLYING LAST JUNE. I KIND OF HAVE AN IDEA. I'M ON A COUPLE WAIT LISTS.

Chair Kafoury: WE'RE PULLING FOR YOU.

Esmerelda Calderone: THANK YOU SO MUCH. [ APPLAUSE ]

Ruby Farrell: HELLO, COMMISSIONERS. NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. MY NAME IS RUBY AND I WORK FOR LIFE STRENGTH NORTHWEST. AND WE ARE HERE TO ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION AND CONTINUE TO FUND THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM 10 14 OFFERED AT SUN SCHOOLS. ALTHOUGH NONE OF THE COORDINATORS ARE ABLE TO BE WITH US TODAY BECAUSE THEY ARE DOING PROGRAM, I HAVE A LETTER FROM ONE OF THE LOCAL SUN COORDINATORS THAT I'D LIKE TO READ FOR YOU. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. I'M WRITING TO YOU IN REGARDS TO MY EXPERIENCE WHICH OFFERED BY LIFE WORKS NORTHWEST. I AM THE SUN MANAGER FOR GORDON RUSSELL MIDDLE SCHOOL. THIS IS THE FIFTH YEAR WE'VE OFFERED THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM. ONE OF OUR MAIN GOALS IN THE PROGRAM IS FAMILY STABILITY. WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO STRENGTHENING AND FAMILIES PROGRAM I WAS IMMEDIATELY IMPRESSED WHEN I LEARNED THAT THEY ARE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, USED AN EVIDENCE BASED CURRICULUM AND PARTICIPATION OF ALL FAMILY MEMBERS. ONCE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES WAS IMPLEMENTED,

I BECAME FAMILIAR WITH THE CURRICULUM. IN MY 15 YEARS OF WORKING WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES, I HAVE YET TO COME ACROSS SUCH A UNIQUE WAY OF TEACHING FAMILY RESILIENCE AND POSITIVE GROWTH. TO BEGIN, FAMILIES COME TO THE SCHOOL AND WELCOMED BY LIFE WORKS NORTHWEST TEAM. A HOT MEAL IS WAITING FOR THEM. WHEN DINNER TIME IS OVER, PARENTS AND YOUTH SEPARATE AND ATTEND CLASSES DESIGNED FOR THEM. PARENTS LEARN WAYS TO EFFECTIVE LY PARENT TEENS. PARENTS ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM OTHERS' EXPERIENCES. DURING THE YOUTH CLASS, THEY GATHER TOGETHER AND DISCUSS AND PRACTICE STRATEGIES THAT WILL HELP THEM HANDLE STRESS, ANGER, PEER PRESSURE AND POSITIVE WAYS. THEY ARE ALSO INTRODUCED TO THE CONCEPT FOR HAVING APPRECIATION FOR THEIR PARENTS AND COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY. THE LAST HOUR, PARENTS AND YOUTH COME TOGETHER TO START A CONVERSATION THAT PERHAPS THEY NEVER WOULD HAVE HAD BEFORE IF THEY HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THESE CLASSES. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES RECOGNIZES EVERY FAMILY IS UNIQUE AND RIGHT THERE TO MEET THEM EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Maria Venegas: [SPEAKING THROUGH AN INTERPRETER] HELLO, MY NAME IS MARIA AND I'M HERE WITH LIFE WORKS NORTHWEST. REPRESENTING THE STRENGTHENING FAMILY'S PROGRAM WITH RUBY. THE EXPERIENCE I'VE HAD HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO ME AND MY FAMILY. WE LEARNED MANY IMPORTANT THINGS DURING THE TIME OF THE PROGRAM THAT SOMETIMES ISSUES WE'D IGNORE IN THE PAST ESPECIALLY WITH HELPING OUR YOUTH DEALING WITH PEER PRESSURE, ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE. WITH MY CHILDREN IN THIS PROGRAM, WE LEARNED ON HOW TO MANAGE WELL THE STRESSES THEY HAVE, THE PRESSURE THEY HAVE IN SCHOOL AND FROM PEER PRESSURE WITH DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE. THIS PROGRAM THESE CLASSES REALLY HELPED MYSELF AS A PARENT AND MY CHILDREN AND I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TAKING THESE CLASSES IN THE FUTURE WITH MY I STILL HAVE A YOUNGER CHILD THAT I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM WITH. MY CHILDREN STILL ASK ABOUT WHEN THE CLASSES WILL HAPPEN AGAIN. AND THEY JUST LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH THEIR LIFE AND DO BETTER. THANK YOU.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Kendra Harding: GOOD EVENING, MY NAME IS KENDRA HARDING AND I'M THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR. AND I'M HERE TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND LIFE WORKS NORTHWEST. THE SERVICES OF THE THERAPIST PROVIDES DEPENDS ON THE COUNTY SUPPORT. I UNDERSTAND THERE ARE SOME QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER THESE SERVICES COULD RELY ON MEDICAID FUNDS WHICH THEY CANNOT. I CERTAINLY APPLAUD EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE MEDICAL SERVICES ARE BEING BILLED WHENEVER POSSIBLE WHICH I ENSURE YOU, THEY ARE. WE DO BILL MEDICAID AND IF THERE'S NOT A SAFETY CONCERN OR OTHER BARRIERS TO BILLING. THIS PROGRAM RELIES ON THE COUNTIES TO SUPPORT AND FILL THE REST OF THE NEEDS THAT CAN'T BE SOLELY DEPENDENT ON BY THE MEDICAID SERVICES. UNIQUE SITUATION AS RISE. FOR EXAMPLE, LIFE WORKS IS ACTUALLY SERVING SURVIVORS ALREADY ENROLLED WITH ANOTHER MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER BUT REFERRED TO THIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM BY THEIR PROVIDER FOR OUR SPECIAL EXPERTISE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SAFETY PLANNING.

A MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR FROM ANOTHER AGENCY VOICES TO US THEIR OWN LIMITATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SAFETY PLANNING AND SEND CLIENTS TO US WHICH WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IF IT WAS SOLELY MEDICAID. THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED DOUBLE BILLING. SOME SURVIVORS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS. AND SOMETIMES THERE'S SAFETY CONCERNS WHY WE AREN'T ABLE TO BILL MEDICAID. FOR INSTANCE, IF A SURVIVOR ISN'T IN CONTROL OF THEIR OWN MAIL. SOME SURVIVORS ARE CONNECTED TO PRIVATE INSURANCE WITH THEIR ABUSER SO THEY AREN'T ABLE TO BILL FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES BECAUSE OF THE SPECIFIC NEED OR BEING

STILL CONNECTED TO THEIR SURVIVOR. WITHOUT THE COUNTY'S SUPPORT, THIS POSITION IS NOT VIABLE. WE WOULD LOSE THE SERVICES ALL TOGETHER. WHEN A PROVIDER IS 100% RELIANT ON MEDICAID BILLING, THE THERAPIST WOULD BE LIMITED ON TRAVELING TO EACH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER IN THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMUNITY. SO I URGE YOU TO NOT WITHDRAW YOUR SUPPORT FROM PROVIDING OUR SERVICES AT THE GATEWAY CENTER AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER THROUGH GRANT FUNDING. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Lexi Moyer: ALL RIGHT. HI, EVERYONE. MY NAME IS LEXI AND I LIVE IN SOUTHEAST PORTLAND. I'M A CO CHAIR EXCUSE ME FOR THE MULTNOMAH YOUTH COMMISSION KNOWN AS THE MYC. THE OFFICIAL YOUTH POLICY BODY FOR THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND MADE UP OF UP TO 42 YOUTH. WE HAVE THREE COMMITTEES TO FOCUS ON DIFFERENT ISSUES THAT YOUTH HAVE PRIORITIZED OVER THE YEARS. THE FIRST IS THE YOUTH OF GUNS VIOLENCE COMMITTEE. WORKS TO CREATE BETTER YOUTH AND POLICE RELATIONSHIPS BY EDUCATING POLICE AND ADDRESSING RACIAL PROFILING. ALSO FOCUSES ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICES AROUND ISSUES LIKE ANTI QUEER GENDER VIOLENCE, SEXUAL DATING VIOLENCE AND CYBER BULLYING. WORKS ON EXPANDING A MODEL LIKE PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAM TO YOUTH IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. SUSTAINABILITY ADVOCATES FOR A BETTER TRANSIT SYSTEM SO ALL YOUTH HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION. THE THIRD COMMITTEE IS THE EDUCATION YOUTH VOICE COMMITTEE BY ADVOCATING TO PUSH BACK SCHOOL START TIMES.

WE'D LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF SOME PROGRAMS THAT ALIGN. FIRST IS ACCESS TO SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THROUGH THE COUNTY. YOUTH NEED SUPPORT FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MOST CONNECTED TO SOCIAL PLATFORMS WHERE CYBER BULLYING HAPPENS. HOWEVER, IN ORDER FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR COMMUNITY TO ACCESS THESE NEEDS, YOUTH NEED FREE AND PRIVATE COUNSELING. I'VE USED IT FOR THINGS THAT PEOPLE THINK ARE EASY TO DO LIKE GETTING A PHYSICAL TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL SPORTS. THIS PROGRAM IS IMPORTANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE. HOPES WE CAN STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH COUNTY OFFICIALS AND YOUR STAFF SO THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER COLLECTIVELY TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND GIVE ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES AND NECESSITIES THAT ALL YOUTH ACROSS PORTLAND AND MULTNOMAH COUNTY NEED. THANK YOU FOR HAVING US HERE TODAY AND LISTEN TO WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY NEED. I'M A POOR PERSON, A STUDENT WHO STRUGGLED IN SCHOOL, PROUD QUEER, CHILD OF A SINGLE PARENT WHO DIDN'T GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL AND NEVER THOUGHT GETTING INVOLVE UNDERSTAND GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN A

POSSIBILITY. I WANT TO THANK THE COUNTY FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MULTNOMAH YOUTH COMMISSION. TRULY GUIDED ME THE PAST THREE YEARS OF MY LIFE AND ALLOWS ME TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Leshawn MCarthy: I'M CO CHAIR OF THE MYC. I'M A SENIOR AT ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL AND I'M 18 YEARS OLD. THE MYC WOULD ALSO LIKE TO UPLIFT THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTION TO JOBS, INTERNSHIPS AND POSITIVE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH. SOME EXAMPLES OF THESE PROGRAMS INCLUDE SCHOOLS UNITING NEIGHBORHOODS OR SUN, SUMMER YOUTH CONNECT AND EVEN THE MYC ITSELF. THESE PROGRAMS DO A GREAT JOB PROVIDING YOUTH ACCESS TO PROVIDING YOUTH ACCESS TO CARING ADULTS AND KEEPING YOUTH OUT OF TROUBLE. I HAVE BEEN ON THE MYC FOR FIVE YEARS AND IT HAS BEEN EXCELLENT IN THE WAY IT INTRODUCES YOUTH TO GOVERNMENT. I CAN HONESTLY SAY I WOULDN'T BE QUITE THE PERSON I AM TODAY WITHOUT THE MYC. AND BECAUSE OF THE MYC, I HAVE BEEN INSPIRED TO RUN FOR OFFICE SOME DAY. WE NEED TO CONTINUE THESE PROGRAMS SO YOUTH LIKE ME CAN BE EXPOSED TO CAREER OPTIONS. WE ALSO SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF SPONSORED CLEAN UPS IN THE COMMUNITY AND BUILDING DISENFRANCHISED NEIGHBORHOODS. EFFORTS LIKE THIS ARE GREAT EXAMPLES AND SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS THAT HAVE HIGH CRIME RATES. WHEN THERE IS A SENSE OF COMMUNITY, IT OFTEN LEADS TO LOWER CRIME RATES WHICH MEANS EVERYONE WINS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN ALLOWING US TO COME HERE AND TESTIFY FOR OPPORTUNITIES THAT YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY NEED. WE HOPE TO CONTINUE OUR PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE ALL YOUTH GET THE BEST CHANCE POSSIBLE TO LIVE SUCCESSFUL AND FULFILLING LIVES. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. GOOD EVENING.

Lisa Nato: GOOD EVENING. THANK YOU FOR THE RECORD. I AM LISA NATO. AND THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY ON TESTIFY TONIGHT. AND I WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANT WORK THAT ALL OF YOU DO AND REALLY APPRECIATE THE GREAT WORK OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY. YOU CAN SEE TONIGHT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SO MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. I'M HERE TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF TELECARE CORPORATION, A FAMILY AND EMPLOYEE OWNED COMPANY. AS MANY OF YOU ALREADY KNOW, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TELE MEDICINE. THROUGH A FLAW IN THE FILING ERROR, THEY PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND EIGHT OTHER STATES AS WELL. I PROVIDED WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUMMARIZING THE ISSUES HERE. BUT AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, MULTNOMAH COUNTY STARTED

THE CRISIS ACCESS AND TREATMENT CENTER TO RESPOND FOR A REAL NEED IN THE COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING SHORT TERM CRISIS. STABLE PLACE TO STAY AND LINKS PEOPLE WITH SERVICES AND HOUSING INTO THE COMMUNITY. MOST OF THE REFERRALS ARE FROM HOSPITALS AND SOME PROJECT RESPOND. AND NOW WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE UNITY CENTER, WE EXPECT TO GET MANY REFERRALS FROM THERE AS WELL FROM POLICE DROP OFFS. SO IT PROVIDES A REAL CRITICAL HOLE IN THE GAP IN OUR SERVICES. OVERTIME, THE COSTS HAVE GONE UP SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE ORIGIN OF THE CONTRACT. AND PRIMARILY THAT'S FOR PROVIDING THE SERVICES. THE REASONS FOR THAT ARE PRIMARILY, AS THE COUNTY KNOWS, COSTS GO UP ABOUT 2%, THE COUNTY IS FIGURING THIS YEAR. THERE IS SOME REAL PRESSURES ON MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STAFF THAT ARE OCCURRING PARTLY BECAUSE IT'S BEEN UNDERPAID PROFESSION FOR QUITE SOMETIME. AND WITH THE MOVING OF THE MENTAL HEALTH INTO THE COMBINED COORDINATED CARE ORGANIZATIONS, THERE'S BEEN INCREASED PRESSURE ON QUALITY STAFF. SO AS A RESULT OF THAT, THE FUNDING FOR THIS YEAR DOES NOT COVER THE COST AND THE EXPERIENCE IS A LOSS. SO I WANT TO THANK YOU WHILE I'M SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF TELECARE AND THE EMPLOYEES AND THE COMPANY AND THIS IS A BUSINESS MATTER, I'M ALSO REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE AND THE CLIENTS WHO USE THE SERVICES THAT EXPERIENCE CRISIS. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Omar Medina: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS OMAR AND I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND SPEAK TO YOU GUYS. I WORK FOR NORTHWEST FAMILY SERVICES AND I AM A COMMUNITY PARTNER AT RENOLDS HIGH SCHOOL SERVING THE INCREDIBLE STUDENTS THERE. I'M HERE TO ASK THAT YOU FOR FUNDING THAT FUNDING BE PROVIDED TO RENOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR A SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC. RENOLDS IS THE SECOND LARGEST HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE WHERE 70% OF THE STUDENTS ARE ON FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH. 11% OF THE TOTAL RENOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT POPULATION IS CONSIDERED HOMELESS. AND MANY WHO ARE UNINSURED OR UNDER INSURED. STUDENTS OFTEN GO UNTREATED FOR CHECKUPS, OBESITY, PRE DIABETIC COMPLICATIONS JUST TO NAME A FEW BECAUSE OF LACK OF ACCESS. MANY DON'T HAVE TRANSPORTATION BECAUSE BOTH PARENTS OR SINGLE PARENT HOME ARE WORKING. CAN'T GET THE KIDS TO THE APPOINTMENTS. AND THEREFORE, THE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER HAS TO TAKE THEM TO THE APPOINTMENTS AT ANOTHER SCHOOL BASED CLINIC OR THEY HAVE TO GO THERE BY TRIMET WHICH TAKES THREE TO FOUR HOURS TO GET FROM RENOLDS TO CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL AND BACK. SO THEY ARE MISSING THAT MUCH SCHOOL. AND THIS IS AN EQUITY ISSUE AND EVERY STUDENT

DESERVES THE RIGHT TO HEALTH SERVICES AND TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL ALONG WITH THAT. AND SO WE'RE JUST HERE TO ASK FOR YOU TO SUPPORT THAT. AND THAT I JUST BELIEVE STUDENT HEALTH IS CLOSELY TIED TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. SO THIS WOULD BE AN INCREDIBLE THING TO GIVE TO RENOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT. THANK YOU.

Elsie Garcia: HI. I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TONIGHT. MY NAME IS ELSIE. I'M A JUNIOR AT RENOLDS HIGH SCHOOL. I'M ALSO HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR STUDENT HEALTH CLINICS AT RHS. HE TOOK ALL MY GOOD POINTS. I JUST WANTED TO SAY IT'S A REALLY NECESSARY RESOURCE AT OUR SCHOOL. AS HE SAID, 70% OF OUR POPULATION IS ON FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH. I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR ALMOST HOMELESS. IT'S REALLY COMMON AT OUR SCHOOL. WE'RE NOT THE RICHEST AND THE SECOND BIGGEST SCHOOL IN THE STATE. THE FACT WE DON'T HAVE STUDENT BASED HEALTH CLINIC IS REALLY CONCERNING TO ME. I FEEL LIKE JUST BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE AS MUCH FUNDING AS OTHER SCHOOLS DO, THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO BASIC HEALTHCARE AND BASIC HEALTH NEEDS THAT A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE. PERSONALLY, I HAD TO GO TO THE CENTENNIAL ONE AND IT TOOK A LOT OUT OF MY TIME FOR SCHOOL. I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO MISS SCHOOL LIKE THAT. I FEEL LIKE IT'S A REALLY IMPORTANT BASIC HEALTH NEED WE SHOULD HAVE AT RENOLDS HIGH SCHOOL.

Chair Kafoury; THANK YOU.

Elsie Garcia; THANKS.

Chair Kafoury: GOOD EVENING.

Kate Poland : MY NAME IS KATE POLAND AND I'M A SOCIAL WORKER AT GRESHAM HIGH SCHOOL. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY ON ADDRESS YOU TONIGHT. I'M HERE TO SPEAK ABOUT THE NEED FOR A SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC. LIMITED ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IMPACTS OUR STUDENTS TREMENDOUSLY BY DELAYING CARE AND ABSENTEEISM OF OUR STUDENTS. I SPEND A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF MY TIME ADVISING STUDENTS OR PARENTS OR HELPING THEM OVERCOME OBSTACLES TO THOSE SERVICES. IN THE PAST WEEK ALONE, I SAW TEN STUDENTS WHO CAME TO ME WITH PROBLEMS ACCESSING HEALTHCARE WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN SERVED BY A SCHOOL HEALTH CLINIC. I REFER STUDENTS WITH LIMITS MEANS TO THE HEALTH CLINIC AT CENTENNIAL OR PARK ROSE LEAVING US HOW TO COORDINATE TRANSPORTATION FOR THOSE KIDS AND CAUSING THEM TO MISS MOST OR ALL OF A SCHOOL DAY. I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT A COUPLE STUDENTS WHO ILLUSTRATE TYPICAL SCENARIOS OF KIDS IN OUR COMMUNITY. FIRST, AIL CALL JAY. HE CAME TO ME WITH DEPRESSION SYMPTOMS. HE MOVED OUT OF HIS HOME RECENTLY DUE TO

UNHEALTHY SITUATION THERE WHICH IS UNFORTUNATELY A REALITY FOR A LOT OF THE KIDS I SEE. HE WANT HADS TO GO TO COLLEGE AND SUPPOSED TO GRADUATE BUT HE'S IN JEOPARDY OF NOT GRADUATING BECAUSE HE CAN'T COMPLETE HIS WORK. HE WANTS TO SEE A DOCTOR AND A THERAPIST BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE INSURANCE SO HE CAN'T ACCESS ANY CARE. THE NEXT ARE TWO BROTHERS WHO ARE REFUGEES. THEIR FAMILY KNOWS LIMITED ENGLISH. THEIR PARENTS DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACCESS HEALTH INSURANCE OR HEALTHCARE NOR HAVE TRANSPORTATION. OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPLE HAD TO TAKE ONE OF THE BOYS TO HOSPITAL. AND BOTH BOYS SUFFER FROM DENTAL PROBLEMS THAT THEY HAVE PAIN THAT LEADS THEM TO MISS SCHOOL FREQUENTLY. WHEN I'M SAYING STUDENTS, I'M TALKING ABOUT CHILDREN. CHILDREN WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE RECEIVING SUPPORT IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR THEIR FUTURES. BUT BECAUSE OF THE FAILURES OF OUR HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, THEY ARE UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN OWN EDUCATIONS. A SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CLINIC WOULD REDUCE BARRIERS ALLOWING THEM TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

Travon Gilbert: HEY. MY NAME IS TRAVON GILBERT. THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION I'M WITH IS NEW AVENUES FOR YOUTH WITH EAST COUNTY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. I WAS HOMELESS FOR ALMOST A WHOLE YEAR. ABOUT 11 MONTHS. AND WHEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT NEW AVENUES, THEY HAD PROBABLY THE MOST AMAZING AND SUPPORTIVE PROGRAM AND PEOPLE THAT I'VE EVER MET IN MY LIFE. IT'S JUST WHEN I FIRST GOT INTRODUCED TO THEM, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY REAL GOALS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. I THOUGHT THAT GETTING A JOB WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE GIVEN THAT I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A PLACE TO STAY. BUT MYSELF ALONG WITH OVER 300 OTHER YOUTH THANKS TO THE PROGRAM WAS ABLE TO GET INTO A WORKFORCE ABLE TO GET A JOB AND ABLE TO GET SUSTAINABLE INCOME FOR OURSELVES. THE HOMELESS POPULATION WHERE I COME FROM IS VERY ALARMING ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH. AND BECAUSE OF YOUR GUYS' DONATION, OVER 350 PEOPLE ARE BEING ASSISTED WITH SECURE EMPLOYMENT WHO OTHERWISE WOULDN'T GET THAT SUPPORT. AND I'M LIVING PROOF OF THAT. IF NOT FOR THIS PROGRAM, I WOULD HAVE BEEN STILL ON THE STREETS SLEEPING UNDER A BENCH OR JUST I DON'T KNOW. THERE ARE DAYS WHERE I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WOULD GET MY NEXT MEAL OR NOT SOMETHING I SAY PROUDLY. IT TRULY IS BECAUSE OF THEM THAT ME AND A LOT OF CLOSE FRIENDS I MET OUT THERE ARE WHERE THEY ARE AT RIGHT NOW. SO ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THEM, THANK YOU, GUYS, FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND EVERYTHING YOU GUYS DID FOR US.

Chair Kafoury: THANKS FOR COMING.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES] PLEASE COME FORWARD.

Chair Kafoury: YOU CAN GO FIRST. ARE YOU READY?

Tamara Henderson: SURE. LET ME MAKE SURE I AM. OKAY. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE OPPORTUNITY. MY NAME IS TAMARA AND I'M THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES. OUR DEPARTMENT SERVES MORE THAN 1,000 YOUTH PER YEAR POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE LIVES OF THOSE YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES. WE PROVIDE MORE THAN 80,000 HOURS OF SERVICES THROUGH SUMMER AND SPRING CAMPS. YEAR ROUND ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT. YOUTH ADVOCACY, COLLEGE CAREER SERVICES AND MUCH MORE. THE MORE THAN 40,000 NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN PORTLAND ARE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM WRAP AROUND SERVICES AND FOR THAT, WE THANK YOU. THE FUNDING HAS RESULTED IN MORE THAN 100 YOUTH LOSING SERVICES. YOUTH ARE BEGINNING TO REGRESS OR SLIP THROUGH THE CRACKS. ONE SENIOR WAS ABLE TO RECOVER 9 CREDITS. THIS YEAR, WE'RE NO LONGER ABLE TO SERVE HER AND SHE HAS DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL. THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY DOES NOT LIVE IN ANY SPECIFIC AREA. WE'RE EVENLY AND THINLY SPREAD OFTEN THROUGHOUT NEIGHBORHOODS AND SCHOOLS. AND THAT IS WHY WE KNOW OUR PROGRAM WORKS. SO LET ME TELL YOU A FEW OF THE HARD NUMBERS. LAST YEAR WE SERVED 172 YOUTH AT THE END OF THE YEAR. THIS YEAR, 67. 26 HIGH SCHOOLS WE WERE IN LAST YEAR.

Tamara Henderson: THIS YEAR, 6. LAST YEAR WE WERE IN 21 MIDDLE SCHOOLS, THIS YEAR 10. LAST YEAR 40 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND THIS YEAR ONLY 13. YOU'LL HEAR STORIES FROM OUR YOUTH ADVOCATES LATER. IN 2013, ONE OF OUR STUDENTS RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP AFTER MORE THAN 100 HOURS OF SERVICE RECEIVED. SHE FOUND THE CENTER THROUGH OUR YOUTH ADVOCATE. HER PARENTS AND SISTER WERE ALSO RECEIVING SERVICES. BUT NO ONE IN HER FAMILY HAD EVER GRADUATED COLLEGE. THIS JUNE, SHE WILL GRADUATE WITH HONORS WITH A DOUBLE MAJOR. WHEN SHE GRADUATES, SHE WILL EITHER ENTER A GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR SOCIAL WORK. THAT'S WHAT I HOPE SHE WOULD DO AND I IMAGINE WHEN YOU MAKE THESE DECISIONS, YOU HOPE THE SAME. YOUTH LIKE HER WILL BE ABLE TO BE SERVED IF WE CONTINUE FUNDING OUR PROGRAM AT \$217,000. PLEASE HELP OUR COMMUNITY HAVE ACCESS TO THOSE CRITICAL FUNDS.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Ashley Oakley: GOOD AFTERNOON, CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS ASHLEY AND I DO QUALITATIVE EVALUATIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING ANOTHER SUNNY DAY THAT YOU HEAR US. AND I WANTED TO GIVE A RECOGNITION TO MULTNOMAH COUNTY PEOPLE. WE PROVIDE SERVICES IN THE EARLY LEARNING DEPARTMENT. WE ADDRESS MANY OF THE DISPARITIES THAT EXIST BOTH IN EDUCATION AND IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM TO ADDRESS THESE DISPARITIES WITH CHILDREN PLACED INTO THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. WE

HAVE A PROGRAM CALLED PARENTS AS TEACHERS. WE TAKE A PROACTIVE APPROACH. CONNECT FAMILIES TO RESOURCES. WE HAVE A GREAT CHILD DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM AND PROVIDE A LOT OF SOCIAL SUPPORT WITHIN THE URBAN NATIVE CENTER. PROGRAM NUMBER 25 151 IS A CRITICAL PART OF OUR EARLY LEARNING SERVICES. WE ALSO WORK WITH BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS. THROUGH THE EARLY LEARNING MULTNOMAH HUBS AND THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKERS PROGRAM NUMBER 25158. REQUIRES MORE PATHWAYS FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AS EVIDENCE BY A LOT OF THE PROBLEMS WE'RE DEALING WITH LIKE DISPROPORTIONATE HIGH SCHOOL DEPRECIATION RATES AND OUR WORKERS REALLY EMPOWER PARENTS AND ORGANIZE THE FAMILIES TO BETTER CONNECT TO SCHOOLS. I'VE SEEN PARENTS APPREHENSIVE. VOLUNTEERING IN THE CLASSROOM AND THESE CHALLENGES THESE CHANGES ARE GOING TO BE THE SOLUTION TO ALL OF OUR CHALLENGES. REALLY THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAY TO ADDRESS THESE RATES THAT A LOT OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE EXPERIENCING. NOT JUST FOR THE NATURE I HAVE COMMUNITY BUT ALL COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME AND I APPRECIATE YOU LISTENING TO US.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Cynthia: GOOD EVENING. I'M CYNTHIA. I WAS HIRED BY DCJ IN 1993 TO DEVELOP THE LEARNING CENTER WITH FUNDING FROM LITERACY GRANT. THEY IMPACT LEARNING POWER. A STUDY FOUND INMATES THAT PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS HAVE 43% LOWER CHANCE OF RETURNING TO PRISON THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT. STEVE READER CONDUCTED A STUDY OF 940 HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS IN THE PORTLAND AREA FOLLOWING THEM FOR 7 YEARS. HE FOUND LITERACY SKILLS ARE NOT STATIC. THEY CHANGE OVERTIME AND INDIVIDUALS WITH GROWTH IN LITERACY SKILLS EXHIBITED INCREASING WAGES WHILE THOSE WITH LOW LITERACY RATES DECREASED IN THEIR WAGES. SO IT'S SIGNIFICANT THAT DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2016, 75% OF 229 STUDENTS SHOWED ACADEMIC GAINS OF ONE OR MORE GRADE LEVELS. DESIGNED TO SERVE PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES. A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO DROP OUT ARE STUDENTS OF COLOR AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. THEY DROP OUT AND DROP INTO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. THEY CALL THIS THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE. RATHER THAN CUTTING THE PROGRAM, IT SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE JAILS. 87% OF THOSE ON SUPERVISION ARE OLDER THAN 25. PCC NO LONGER OFFERS SERVICES IN THE JAIL. AND A YEAR AGO, CUT IS THE TUTORING PROGRAM. THEY HAVE REQUIREMENTS THAT CAN CHALLENGE PEOPLE IN TREATMENT PROGRAMS OR RETURNING FROM INCARCERATION. SHOULD BE VIEWED AS ON RAMP INTO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND WORK SOURCE SYSTEMS. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR THE WORK YOU DO, FOR THE CARE YOU ARE GIVING IN THIS BUDGETING PROCESS. THANKS.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Cindy Stadel: GOOD AFTERNOON, CHAIR, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE TODAY. THIS IS THE THIRD TIME I'VE TESTIFIED IN YOUR BUDGET CYCLE. FIRST TIME WAS AT ERCOS FACILITY. I WAS PROVIDING OPENING REMARKS. AND I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN THE COMMUNITIES OF COLOR. ESPECIALLY OVER THE DECADES WHICH HAS CHANGED QUITE A BIT. IT'S A WONDERFUL INVESTMENT TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES HEALTHY. KEEPS MORE OF OUR COMMUNITY OUT OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND IS A GREAT INVESTMENT INTO OUR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR FOR EVERYBODY IN THE COUNTY. SO THANK YOU. THE SECOND HEARING I FOCUSED MORE ON MY CAPACITY AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NAYA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. AND I FOCUSED ON THE SUN PROGRAMMING THAT TAMARA JUST MENTIONED. SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE DECLINE IN OUR ABILITY TO SERVE OUR NATIVE COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF LOSS OF A CERTAIN KIND OF FUNDING. THE WAY THE FUNDING CAME TO US LAST YEAR IS ALMOST THE SAME AMOUNT OF FUNDING AS THE YEAR PRIOR. BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT CAME TO US, WE LOST OUR ABILITY TO SERVE OUR NATIVE COMMUNITY DIRECTLY. THAT DOESN'T SERVE YOUR MISSION OR OURS. SO WE ASKED FOR A CHANGE IN THAT PROGRAM WHICH IS 25149. AND EARLIER TODAY, I SENT AN EMAIL TO ALL OF YOU WITH OUR ASK. IT LOOKS LIKE THIS. I'M GOING TO LEAVE HARD COPIES FOR YOU. SHOULD BE IN YOUR EMAIL BOX AS WELL. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR OUR ON GOING REQUEST. TODAY I ALSO WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT OUR PARTNERSHIP AND THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS WITH THE COUNTY. NOW, WE LOVE OUR RELATIONSHIP BUT SOME OF THE WORK THAT WE DO DOES END UP COSTING OUR ORGANIZATION FUNDING THAT IS NOT EXPECTING OR YOU ARE NOT AWARE. JUST A SHORT LIST. SOME OF OUR CONTRACTS DON'T COVER ADMINISTRATIVE AND OCCUPANCY COST, MORTGAGE INTEREST, IT SUPPORT AND OTHER SHARED AND DIRECT COST. IT'S NOT JUST NAYA. MANY OF THE OTHER NON PROFITS ARE ALSO STRUGGLING ON THIS. I'M CALLING ON THE COUNTY TO TAKE A TOP DOWN APPROACH ON THE BUSINESS WE DO ESPECIALLY WITH THE NON PROFITS AND EXPLORE THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS WITH THE COUNTY. BUT ABOVE ALL ELSE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP. APPRECIATE IT. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES] . AND I KNOW THERE'S A FIFTH IN THAT PARTY IF YOU WANT TO COME UP AND SIT RIGHT BEHIND THEM. KATE EVERLY.

Chair Kafoury: YOU CAN BEGIN.

April Olsen: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS APRIL. I'M DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR THE GRESHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT. OVER 1 IN 5 STUDENTS IS CHRONICALLY ABSENT WHICH IS DEFINED AS ATTENDING 90% OF DAYS OR LESS. THE SCHOOL NONATTENDANCE IS MERELY JUST A SYMPTOM OF MORE SUBSTANTIAL ISSUES THAT OUR COMMUNITIES ARE FACING. WHETHER THOSE BE HOMELESSNESS, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, LACK OF ACCESS TO RUNNING WATER OR A SHOWER. A SCHOOL OFTEN LACKS THE RESOURCES TO MAKE SUSTAINS AND PERSONAL CONNECTIONS TO ATTEND TO THESE ISSUES. THE YOUTH AND STABILITY WORKER POSITION THAT HAS BEEN FUNDED FROM ONE TIME ONLY FUNDS FROM THE COUNTY ALLOWS US TO HAVE SOMEONE IN THE BUILDING EMBEDDED IN THE SCHOOL TO COME ALONGSIDE FAMILIES AND STUDENTS MEETING THEM WHERE THEY ARE AND GET CHILDREN BACK IN SCHOOL. LEVERAGING RESOURCES WITH DHS AND SELF SUFFICIENCY AND THE DISTRICT ALLOWS US TO REALLY WRAP AROUND STUDENTS. SOMETIMES THE STUDENT JUST NEEDS A FRIENDLY PERSON TO CHECK IN WITH EVERYDAY. AN ALARM CLOCK, INCENTIVE OR BEING TOLD HOW IMPORTANT SCHOOL IS. THE ATTENDANCE CASEWORKER WORKS WITH OUR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SUPPORT TEAMS TO REVIEW DATA AND DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE STEPS FOR EACH CHILD. THIS PROVIDES EXTENSIVE OUTREACH AND SUPPORT SERVICES AS PART OF A BIGGER ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL IN EACH OF OUR SCHOOLS. HAVING STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS IS THE FIRST STEP TO THEM BEING ON TRACK TO GRADUATE CAREER AND COLLEGE READY. AND AT THE THREE SCHOOLS OUR CASEWORKER HAS BEEN SUPPORTING US WITH, I'D LIKE TO SHARE A LITTLE DATA WITH YOU. I WILL SHARE THE DATA WITH YOU VIA EMAIL. BUT WE WOULD REQUEST THAT THIS FUNDING BE MOVED, BE CONTINUED TO BE SUPPORTED, MOVED FROM ONE TIME ONLY FUNDING TO ON GOING FUNDING TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY AND CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS AND DEMONSTRATE ITS SUCCESSES.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Brenda Stubblefield: GOOD EVENING AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. MY NAME IS BRENDA AND I AM THE ATTENDANCE CASEWORKER AT GRESHAM BARLOW. THERE'S A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE ROOM HERE FOR THE SAME REASONS. I APPRECIATE THEM FOR COMING. I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT THE WORK I DO. I WANT TO BRING THIS HOME AND TALK ABOUT A SPECIFIC CASE. I HAVE A FAMILY I CALL THEM THE TRIO. THEY HAVE A KINDER, FIRST GRADER AND FIFTH GRADER. I WANT TO FOCUS ON THE 5TH GRADER TODAY. LAST YEAR SHE ENDED THE SCHOOL YEAR AT 51.92% ATTENDANCE. SHE STARTED THE SCHOOL YEAR VERY POORLY. WE IDENTIFIED HER IN SEPTEMBER AT 42%. SHE WAS AT A FIRST GRADE READING LEVEL IN FIFTH GRADE, NOT CONFIDENT, SOCIAL SKILL ISSUES, HYGIENE ISSUES. WE CAME ALONGSIDE HER, MYSELF, MY TEAM IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GO INTO IT. AND AS WE DID THAT, WE STARTED TO SEE HER COME TO SCHOOL MORE. LAST WEEK ON THURSDAY, SHE HIT 90%.

WE HAVE SEEN HER CONFIDENCE INCREASE, WE'VE SEEN HER BUILD FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF EDUCATION. SHE HAS BROKEN AWAY FROM HER FAMILY'S DYSFUNCTION. THE LITTLES STILL WE'RE KNOCKING ON THEIR DOOR GOING WHY AREN'T THEY IN SCHOOL? LET US TAKE THEM. THEY ARE NOT WHERE SHE IS. SHE HAS DONE THIS AND GOTTEN HERSELF UP WITH OUR COACHING AND OUT THE DOOR AND ON THE BUS AND COMES TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY. AND SHE IS NOW AT A FIFTH GRADE LEVEL. SHE HAS JUMPED FROM FIRST TO FIFTH SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN IN ATTENDANCE. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW AWESOME IT IS TO SEE THAT SMILE BECAUSE SHE'S SO CONFIDENT. SHE HAS GREAT FRIENDS, SHE LOVES ATTENTION. WE SEE A YOUNG GIRL NOW READY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND IT'S BECAUSE WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO COME ALONGSIDE HER AND REALLY BUILD HER UP. AND I WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DO THIS WORK.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Laurel Hess: HI. MY NAME IS LAUREL HESS. I'M THE CURRENT ATTENDANCE SPECIALIST AND THIS IS MY SECOND YEAR IN THE POSITION. I'M PRESENTING TODAY BECAUSE I'M CONCERNED ABOUT FUNDING EQUITY FOR PROGRAMS IN EAST COUNTY. IN THE POSITION OF ATTENDANCE SPECIALIST I HAVE SEEN FAMILY GROWTH, TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES AND COUNTY AND STATE SCHOOL COLLABORATION GROW TO A LEVEL THAT DID NOT EXIST BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ATTENDANCE CASE MANAGER. OUR SCHOOLS STUDENTS WHO ARE CHRONICALLY ABSENT SUFFER FROM SITUATIONS LIKE ABUSE, NEGLECT, DRUG ADDICTIONS, HOMELESSNESS AND MANY OTHER TRAUMATIC SITUATIONS. WITHOUT AN ATTENDANCE WORKER, THESE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES DO NOT HAVE A DIRECT CONNECTION. WE ARE THEIR DIRECT CONTACT AND LIFELINE FOR ATTENDANCE AND EVERY REASON SURROUNDING ABSENTEEISM. SCHOOL BUDGETS ARE BEING SLASHED AND DISTRICTS WITH LOWER PROPERTY VALUES AND INCOME VALUES ARE BEING HIT SUPER HARD. WITH HOUSING POLICIES AND A LARGE PORTION OF PEOPLE IN POVERTY BEING FORCED TO MOVE TO MULTNOMAH COUNTY, THEY HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO FUND SCHOOLS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT EAST COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND COMMUNITIES ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD THE SAME POSITIONS AND SUPPORT. MULTNOMAH IS NOT ONLY PPS, WE MATTER TOO. CREATING SHORT TERM SUPPORT POSITIONS CREATES COMMUNITY TRAUMA. I HAVE HAD COUNTLESS PARENTS AND STUDENTS EXTREMELY UPSET THIS POSITION IS ENDING. SOME SAYING YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON WHO LISTEN TO ME. OUR FAMILIES AND STUDENTS HAVE SUFFERED FROM LIFETIME TRAUMA AND I URGE THE COMMISSIONERS TO NOT CONTINUE WITH CREATING MORE FEELINGS OF ABANDONMENT AMONG OUR POPULATIONS. I REALLY URGE THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO INCLUDE THIS POSITION FOR ANOTHER YEAR. THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

Kate Eyerley: HI. MY NAME IS KATE. I AM A SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER. I AM ALSO THE ATTENDANCE SPECIALIST WORKING IN THE RENOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT. I HAVE SPENT THE PAST YEAR WORKING THERE AND I'M HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR THAT POSITION. ALL OF THESE WOMEN SPOKE ABOUT THE NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF WORK IN THE DISTRICT. I DON'T NEED TO REPEAT THAT. BUT JUST TO SAY THAT OUR SCHOOLS ARE SEVERELY UNDER FUNDED AND WILDLY UNDER STAFFED. EVERYONE IS AT CAPACITY. NO ONE HAS THE BAND WIDTH. AT ONE OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS I WORK AT, I AM A TEAM OF ONE. I AM THE ONLY PERSON DOING THIS WORK. IT IS VALUED BUT THERE ARE NOT PEOPLE TO DO IT. IF THIS POSITION IS NOT RENEWED, PEOPLE CARE AND THEY WILL TRY THEIR BEST BUT THERE ISN'T THE MANPOWER TO DEVOTE TO THESE KIDS. THIS IS ONE OF THE ONLY POSITIONS THAT CAN LOOK AT KIDS THAT ARE NOT IN THE BUILDING. WE CAN LOOK AT KIDS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN AT SCHOOL OR THEIR ATTENDANCE DROPPED AND SAY WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM AND WHO IS WATCHING THEM? SHE MENTIONED THE TRAUMA OF CHANGE OVER OF STAFF AND I WANT TO HIGHLIGHT THAT AT ONE OF THE SCHOOLS TOO. THEY'VE HAD SIX PRINCIPALS IN 8 YEARS AND NEW STAFF. AND THE FUNDING THIS YEAR MEANS LOTS OF NEW STAFF. TOOK ME SIX MONTHS TO GET TEACHERS TO RESPOND TO MY EMAILS BECAUSE I WAS NEW. IF THIS ISN'T RENEWED THIS YEAR BUT MAYBE IN TWO OR THREE YEARS, ALL OF THAT WORK WILL BE LOST AND THEY'LL BE STARTING OVER. SO IF YOU WANT TO HELP, I JUST ASK YOU TO STABILIZE THAT AND LET THAT WORK THAT BEGAN CONTINUE.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. AND KIM IS HAPPY TO TALK WITH YOU TO GET THE INFORMATION YOU DIDN'T GET TO GIVE. THANKS FOR COMING.

Kate Eyerly: I'M GOING TO BE READING ON BEHALF OF KATHLEEN ROBINSON. I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE ATTENDANCE SPECIALIST POSITIONS THROUGH THE COUNTY BUDGET. SINCE THEY HAVE HAD A FULL TIME ATTENDANCE SPECIALIST I KNOW FIRSHTHAND THE IMPACT OF THAT WORK. WE HAVE SEEN NOTICEABLE IMPROVEMENTS AT THOSE SCHOOLS AND ANALYZING ATTENDANCE DATA, DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS WITH STRONG ATTENDANCE, EDUCATING OUR PARENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE IN KINDERGARTEN. DEVELOPING INTERVENTIONS TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE, LEADING OUR TEAMS AND ANALYZING THE ROOT CAUSES OF CHRONIC ABSENCES. BECAUSE OF THE ATTENDANCE SPECIALISTS, HAS A DIFFERENT ROLE THAN TEACHERS OR COUNSELORS, ABLE TO REACH OUT TO FAMILIES WITH A SINGULAR FOCUS ON ATTENDANCE. FAMILIES TRUST HER AND ABLE TO OFFER FAMILIES THINGS THEY NEED TO BREAKDOWN ATTENDANCE BARRIERS. A FAMILY WITH AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT WHO MISSED A LOT OF SCHOOL. SHE MET WITH THE FAMILY, THE MOM WORKED MORNING, THE DAD WAS CARING FOR TWO BABIES. THE PARENT DID NOT

WANT TO SEE HIS YOUNG CHILD WALKED TO SCHOOL THAT FAR ON HIS OWN. THE ATTENDANCE SPECIALIST BOUGHT THE PARENT A DOUBLE STROLLER SO HE CAN BRING BOTH BABIES ALONG. I WANT TO SAY THAT FAMILY IS NOW ABOVE 90% AND ENDED THE YEAR THE SECOND WORST AT 40% ATTENDANCE. SO IT WAS EFFECTIVE.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Kate Eyerly: I HAVE DATA SHEETS.

>> GIVE THEM TO KIM. SHE'LL DISTRIBUTE THEM OUT TO THE STAFF. THANK YOU.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES] PLEASE COME FORWARD.

Nida Gomez: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS NIDA. I'M AN 8TH GRADER. I HAVE BEEN A STUDENT FOR TWO YEARS. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN A PROGRAM PROVIDED THROUGH LATINO NETWORK. THIS EXPERIENCE HAS BROUGHT IN MANY DIFFERENT SUBJECTS INCLUDING CULTURE AND MUCH MORE. OUR GROUP COORDINATOR IS A GREAT ADVOCATE, TEACHER AND FRIEND. WE LEARNED ABOUT OUR LATINO CULTURE. WE SPEAK OF THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF LATIN AMERICA FROM WHICH WE ORIGINATE. WE TALK ABOUT THE THINGS THAT MAKE THAT PLACE UNIQUE COMPARED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF PEOPLE AND THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE. WE ALSO HAVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW WE CAN HELP IMPROVE THE VISION THAT OTHERS HAVE ON THE LATINO COMMUNITY. LATELY, WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE DIFFERENT OBSTACLES FACING LATINO AND THE THINGS WE CAN DO TO MAKE IT EASIER TO OVERCOME THESE OBSTACLES. PROVIDES A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN GO AT THE SCHOOL AND LEARN ABOUT MANY DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY, WE HAD A UNIT WHERE WE LEARNED ABOUT DIFFERENT CAREERING PATHS.

WE EXPLORED THE DIFFERENT THINGS WE CAN PURSUE IN LIFE. WE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE THINGS WE CAN DO IN ORDER TO GET TO THE JOBS WE WANT TO HAVE. WE TOOK A FIELD TRIP TO THE OREGON NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER. THIS IS ONE I WILL NEVER FORGET. WE HAD THE CHANCE TO SEE CUTE LITTLE MONKEYS BUT GAVE ME A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON TESTING MEDICINE ON APES. THEY HAVE TAKEN US TO THE CAPITOL TO TALK TO REPRESENTATIVES TO PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY AND KAISER. IN THIS UNIT, WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE DIFFERENT PROBLEMS OUR COMMUNITY IS FACING AND HOW THESE PROBLEMS TIE BACK TO THE LATIN CULTURE AND SPECIFICALLY PROBLEMS THAT LATINO COMMUNITY FACE. OUR CLASS DECIDED THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS AFFECTED BY HOMELESSNESS. WE WILL BE GOING TO DOWNTOWN PORTLAND ON JUNE 2ND TO FEED HOPEFULLY 100 HOMELESS

PEOPLE. IN MY OPINION, THIS IS A GREAT EXPERIENCE. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO SEE FIRSTHAND WHAT HOMELESS PEOPLE HAVE TO GO THROUGH. I BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL HELP US BECAUSE IT WILL ENCOURAGE US TO BE IN OUR COMMUNITY MORE OFTEN. STUDENTS GO THERE SOMEWHERE WHERE YOU GO INSTEAD OF BEING ON THE STREETS AND PARTICIPATING IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. FOR THESE REASONS, I ASK YOU TO PLEASE NOT CUT BUDGETS.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Camilla Pacheco: GOOD EVENING COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS CAMILLA AND I'M LATINA EIGHT GRADER. I GET NERVOUS, I'M SORRY. MY SCHOOL MAY NOT BE THE BEST SCHOOL OR THE RICHEST BUT WE HAVE RESOURCES TO GET TO THE SCHOOL. HAS IMPROVED ME AND MY GRADES MORE THAN ANY OTHER RESOURCE. I USED TO HAVE CS AND FS AND NOW I'M MOSTLY STRAIGHT A STUDENT. INSPIRING US TO HAVE THE FUTURE WE DESERVE AND MADE ME CHANGE MY PERSPECTIVE OF MY FUTURE AND WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH IT. LASTLY, OUR COORDINATOR HELPED ME WHEN ALL OUR OTHER TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS IGNORE US. NOT ONLY FOCUSED ON SCHOOL LIFE BUT LIFE AFTER SCHOOL. NO MATTER WHAT, HE DOES HIS BEST TO HELP US SUCCEED. HE'S ALWAYS WILLING TO HEAR US OUT WHEN EVERYONE ELSE GIVES US THEIR BACK. FOR THESE REASONS IT HAS HELPED ME SUCCEED.

Celeste Polk: MY NAME IS CELESTINE AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE PROGRAM. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMISSIONERS FOR YOUR TIME. CHI TO ME COURSE TO FACE ANYTHING THAT DIRECTLY CROSSES MY PATH IN 2017. BASICALLY, NOT GIVING UP EVER. H STANDS FOR HELPING MAKE CRUCIAL DECISIONS FOR MY FAMILY REALIZING THERE ARE OTHER PARENTS GOING THROUGH EXACTLY WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH AND HAVING A POWERFUL SUPPORT GROUP BACKING ME. I IS FOR INITIATIVE. TEACHING ME NEW METHODS TO KEEP UP IN THIS FAST PACED WORLD TODAY. BEING A CREATIVE THINKER OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL BOX ESPECIALLY CONCERNING MY KIDS. THE CHI PROGRAM HAS TREMENDOUSLY HELPED ME WITH POSITIVE ADVICE, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPEATEDLY AND ANY TIME I CALL ON THEM, THEY ARE ALWAYS THERE. THE CHI PROGRAM SHOULD EXIST WORLDWIDE NOT ONLY IN OREGON BUT EVERYWHERE. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: YOU READY? ALL RIGHT.

Johanna Nova- Marin: GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS JOHANNA. I AM HERE REPRESENTING LATINO NETWORK. IT'S A PROGRAM THAT HELPS LATINO FAMILIES AND YOUTH REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. JESUS IS A COORDINATOR AT MY SCHOOL. IT'S A PROGRAM FOR LATINO STUDENTS AFTER SCHOOL. IT'S A PROGRAM THAT TEACHES US ABOUT OUR CULTURE AND THINGS WE WOULDN'T BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOL. IT MAKES SURE WE ARE ABLE TO SUCCEED BY GIVING US OPPORTUNITIES AND PREPARING US FOR OUR FUTURES. SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES INCLUDE HAVING CLASSES, TAKING US TO OREGON NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER, OREGON CAPITOL BUILDING AND TALKING TO REPRESENTATIVES. TAKING US TO KAISER AND MANY OTHER THINGS. GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND SEE NEW PLACES AND EXPERIENCE NEW THINGS. ALL THESE EXPERIENCES KEEP US ON TRACK AND HELP US THINK ABOUT OUR FUTURE. WE HAVE SO MANY STRUGGLES BUT WE ARE NOT ALONE. JESUS IS OUR COORDINATOR AND HELPED ME A LOT IN THE PAST YEAR. HE CHECKS IN WITH US TO SEE HOW OUR GRADES ARE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, HE CHECKS IN WITH US TO SEE HOW WE ARE, HOW WE'RE FEELING AND HOW THINGS ARE AT HOME. HE HAS BEEN THERE FOR US WHEN NO OTHER TEACHER HAS. HE HAS LISTENED TO US AND HELPED TO FIND A SOLUTION WHEN NO ONE ELSE WOULD. WHEN PRINCIPAL, SENIOR DIRECTORS WOULDN'T BE THERE FOR US, HE WOULD. THEY SHOULD KEEP PROVIDING THESE PROGRAMS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND HELP LATINO FAMILIES AND KIDS TO FIND THE RIGHT HELP. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU FOR COMING. [ APPLAUSE ]

Natalie: GOOD EVENING. BEFORE I BEGIN, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE MY EXPERIENCE WITH YOU. MY NAME IS NATALIE AND I'M AN 8TH GRADE STUDENT. I'M HERE TO REPRESENT LATINO NETWORK. I'M IN A GROUP WHICH PROVIDED BY LATINO NETWORK. IT'S MORE THAN JUST A GROUP. IT'S FAMILY. WE TALK ABOUT CULTURE, CAREER PATHS AND LIVES. OUR DIRECTOR IS MORE THAN A DIRECTOR. HE IS OUR FRIEND. HE TELLS US HOW HE IS, HOW HE'S PROUD OF US AND KEEPS US ON THE RIGHT PATH. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, HE KNOWS WE WILL SUCCEED. THIS PROGRAM GIVES US TOOLS TO GET TO A DESIRED JOB. THE CAPITOL TO TALK TO REPRESENTATIVES. GIVES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY AND HANDS ON LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE YOU WOULDN'T EXPERIENCE ANYWHERE ELSE. THIS PROGRAM GIVES YOU HOPE AND CHANCES TO REACH FULL CAPACITY. LATINO NETWORK IS MORE THAN JUST A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION. IT CREATES A COMMUNITY WHERE WE BECOME A WHOLE. I ASK YOU TO KEEP FUNDING THE LATINO NETWORK. IT WILL HELP MORE THAN JUST ONE KID JUST LIKE IT HELPED ME.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Jesus Torralba: GOOD JOB. GOOD EVENING, CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS JESUS. I WORK FOR LATINO NETWORK. I'M HERE TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE. A PROJECT FUNDED THROUGH MULTNOMAH COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT. THIS IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LATINO NETWORK, DCJ AND POIC. THIS PROJECT HELPS REDUCE YOUTH VIOLENCE BY ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY BY MEETING THE FAMILIES WHERE THEY ARE USUALLY IN CRISIS WHEN THEY COME TO US IN ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO THEIR SUCCESS ONE STEP AT A TIME. ALL THE WHILE BUILDING ON THE STRENGTHS OF THE YOUTH AND THE FAMILIES WHILE ELIMINATING BARRIERS. UNFORTUNATELY, MY CO WORKER WHO WAS GOING TO SPEAK TODAY WAS NOT ABLE TO MAKE IT OUT. I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS HIS THANKS FOR PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK AS A MENTOR WITH YOUTH AND FAMILIES. I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU, COMMISSIONERS, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR THIS AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO BE A BROTHER, A FATHER, A FRIEND, A MENTOR FOR YOUTH IN MY COMMUNITY. GROWING UP, I HAD A LOT OF MENTORS SUPPORTING ME THAT CHALLENGED THE WAY I THINK. WHO ALWAYS KEPT ME INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER PEERS SUPPORTING MY DREAMS OF BECOMING AN ARTIST AND THAT IS OKAY TO PURSUE MY PASSIONS. THESE MENTORS OPENED MY EYES TO MY CULTURE, MY IDENTITY, MY HUMANITY. MENTORS I NOW HAVE THE HONOR TO CALL MY CO WORKERS AND MY BROTHERS. THEY PLANTED A SEED OF HOPE IN MY MIND AND HEART. THAT'S WHY I DO THE WORK I DO NOW. ONE DAY SOMEONE DECIDED I WAS WORTH THEIR TIME, I WAS WORTH INVESTING IN WHEN OTHERS STOPPED. I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU AS A SERVANT. I'M HERE TO HELP HEAL OUR COMMUNITIES AND GUIDE THE NEXT GENERATION.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Daniel Valdouinos: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS DANIEL AND I AM A YOUTH IN THE CHI SERVICES PROGRAM PART OF THE LATINO NETWORK. I'M HERE TODAY TO ASK YOU TO KEEP FUNDING THIS PROGRAM. A YEAR AGO, I WASN'T THE KID WHO I AM NOW. AND NOW THEY'VE MADE ME A YOUNG MAN INSTEAD OF BEING THAT YOUNG BOY OUTSIDE BEING RECKLESS. GREW UP WITH NO FATHER FIGURE. I DIDN'T KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG. INSTEAD OF HITTING A BRICK WALL, I CAN HIT THE BOOKS AND GET KNOWLEDGE RIGHT OUT OF IT. BECAUSE OF THIS PROGRAM AND BECAUSE OF JESUS AND THEM BEING GREAT ROLE MODELS, I'M GOING TO GRADUATE A YEAR EARLY AND DO SOMETHING WITH MY LIFE. I'M PLANNING TO GOING INTO CONSTRUCTION UNIT AND LEADING THEM IN THE RIGHT PATH. [ APPLAUSE ]

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. GREAT JOB. WE'RE ON YOUR SIDE.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES] PLEASE COME FORWARD.

Chair Kafoury: WHO IS GOING FIRST? GREAT. GO AHEAD. SHOULD BE ON.

Tony Camber: HELLO. OKAY. HI. THANKS FOR TAKING TIME TO COME AND ALLOW ME TO SHARE MY STORY ALSO AND SHARE A STORY AND EXPERIENCE HOW YOUTH ADVOCACY HELPED ONE OF THE YOUTH. MY NAME IS TONY. AND FOR OVER 18 MONTHS I WORKED AS A YOUTH ADVOCATE. AND SERVING SCHOOLS IN THE RENOLDS AND GRESHAM BAR DISTRICT. IN THIS POSITION, I HAD A PRIVILEGE OF WORKING WITH A 4TH GRADER. UPON FIRST WORKING TOGETHER, THIS YOUNG LADY FACED A LOT OF CHALLENGES WITH ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOLS AS WELL AS SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING, SELF ESTEEM AND SO ON. IN PART, SOME OF THIS WAS DUE TO HOUSING AND STABILITY AND SECURITY IN HER IDENTITY. THIS GREATLY IMPACTED HER ABILITY TO REMAIN FULLY PRESENT IN SCHOOL AND COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS. HER MOTHER IS A SINGLE MOTHER OF TWO. DUE TO THE TRANSPORTATION AND TIME, AS A RESULT OF YOUTH ADVOCACY, ABLE TO RECONNECT WITH THE PROGRAMMING LIKE LEARNING SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMING CENTER WHERE SHE WAS ABLE TO LEARN SOME OF HER OWN TRIBAL TRADITIONS, SONGS AND CEREMONIES, WHICH SHE TOOK BACK TO HER SCHOOL. THAT WAS ABLE TO HELP HER RAISE HER GRADES AND SELF CONFIDENCE WHICH THEN ALSO RAISED ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL. SHE WENT FROM 30% ATTENDANCE ALL THE WAY UP TO 92%. THAT WAS HUGE. THE OTHER THING ABOUT THIS YOUNG LADY IS SHE HAS BIG CURLY BEAUTIFUL HAIR AND LAST YEAR, SHE SANG A SONG FOR THE TALENT SHOW AND SHE WANTED TO STRAIGHTEN HER HAIR. SO WE HAD THIS CONVERSATION ABOUT IT. AND SHE TOLD ME THIS IS WHAT POP CULTURE IS TELLING ME TO DO. SO I TALKED TO HER ABOUT HOW HAIR IS IMPORTANT FOR US IN OUR CULTURE AND HOW IT'S IMPORTANT FOR HER TO SHOW CASE HER PRIDE AND SELF ESTEEM. SHE PERFORMED WITH HER NATURAL HAIR AND WAS SUPER PROUD OF IT. SO THAT'S JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF WHAT YOUTH ADVOCACY HAS DONE. UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF THE CUT FOR THE 2017 FISCAL YEAR PROGRAM, I'VE HAD TO EXIT THIS YOUNG LADY FROM CASELOAD. I GOT AN UPDATE FROM HER MOTHER WHO INFORMED ME HER ATTENDANCE HAS DROPPED DOWN AND BASICALLY GONE BACK TO WHERE SHE WAS. THIS IS WHY IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT. OUR KIDS NEED US AND THEY NEED HER CULTURE AND WE NEED YOU. SO PLEASE RESTORE FUNDING.

Chair Kafoury: THANKS FOR SHARING. [ APPLAUSE ]

Larissa Nez: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR. MY NAME IS LARISSA. I'M A YOUTH ADVOCATE AT NAYA. I PROVIDE ACADEMIC SOCIAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT IN SCHOOLS AND OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS. AS A CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROVIDER, MY ROLE IS GROUNDED IN CULTURAL AWARENESS. WHEN NATIVE YOUTH HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR CULTURE, THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO BUILD POSITIVE CULTURAL IDENTITIES, SUCCEED IN SCHOOL AND ENGAGE WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY. TWO YEARS AGO, I BEGAN WORKING AT

A SCHOOL THAT HAD LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF NAYA AND ABLE TO IDENTIFY ONE NATIVE STUDENT IN NEED OF SUPPORT. TODAY I SUPPORT 11 NATIVE STUDENTS AT THAT SCHOOL. A CONNECTION WITH ONE STUDENT OPENED THE DOORS FOR OTHERS TO REACH OUT TO NAYA. AND IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN, WE MUST BE WILLING TO ADDRESS THE WAYS WHICH SYSTEMS RESPECT, PROTECT AND LISTEN TO NATIVE STUDENTS. MANY NATIVE YOUTH TODAY ARE HESITANT ABOUT SHARING THEIR IDENTITY BECAUSE THEY FACE NEGATIVE FEEDBACK MORE SO THAN POSITIVE. I AM PROMPTED TO SHARE A DISTURBING STATEMENT THAT WAS SAID TO STUDENTS. NOBODY CARES ABOUT YOUR WIPED OUT NATIVE PEOPLE. MY FOUR STUDENTS WERE FILLED WITH ANGER AND MORE HURT THAN EVER BY WHAT WAS STATED. AND AS YOUTH ADVOCATE, I WAS ABLE TO GUIDE THEM INTO REDIRECTING THAT NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE AND CREATING SOMETHING POSITIVE. THEY DECIDED THEY WANTED TO ADDRESS THIS MISTREATMENT. WE IMPLEMENTED A CURRICULUM THAT BROKE DOWN RACIAL INJUSTICE, DISCRIMINATION AND BULLYING. WE WORKED TOGETHER TO RESTORE THE SAFE SPACE OF THE CLASSROOM TO UTILIZE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND BUILD GAPS OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN SLURS AND NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS AND ACTIVISM. MY STUDENTS HAVE FELT SAFE, SUPPORTED AND FELT MORE SUCCESSFUL. I BELIEVE THAT CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROVIDERS ARE THE KEY FOR CREATING SPACE FOR NATIVE STUDENTS AND ASK THE BORE TO RESTORE THE FUNDING THAT WAS CUT FROM THE 2017 YOUTH ADVOCACY PROGRAM. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Angela Gelqudo: SPEAK THROUGH AND INTERPRETER. GOOD EVENING, CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS ANGELICA. AND [INAUDIBLE] PROGRAMS AT LATINO NEIGHBOR. I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR FUNDING THE COMMUNITY HEALING INITIATIVE PROGRAM. BEFORE COMING FOR LATINO NETWORK, MY SITUATION AT HOME WITH MY SON WAS VERY TENSE. HIS MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES WITH GUNS WAS AFFECTING OUR FAMILY AND STABILITY. WHEN LATINO NETWORK COME INTO WORK WITH US, THE SITUATION WAS VERY DIFFICULT. THE URGENCY THEY PLACED IN OUR SITUATION WAS CRUCIAL AND HELPED US MAKE PLAN FOR US TO DECIDE WHAT WAS THE BEST FOR US TO BE TO GAIN STABILITY IN SITUATIONS. THEY GAVE US THE SUPPORT WE NEEDED AT THAT TIME. AT THE PRESENT, WE ARE BECOMING CLOSER AND MORE STABLE AS A FAMILY. MY HUSBAND AND I ARE ATTENDING THE LATINO NETWORK PARENTS HELPING PARENTS CLASS AND IT IS HELPING US LEARN HOW TO COMMUNICATE AND BE BETTER PARENTS FOR OUR CHILDREN. BY PARTICIPATING IN ALL PROGRAM, MY HUSBAND AND I ALSO SUPPORT NETWORK WITH OTHER FAMILIES IN THE PROGRAM. WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN OUR YOUNG AND THANK YOU FOR CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND BRING FUTURE FOR OUR

FAMILY. THANK YOU, AGAIN, TO THE COMMISSIONERS AND FOR FUNDING AND SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE AT LATINO NETWORK. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Alejandra Galindo: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. I WORK WITH LATINO NETWORK. IT'S A PROGRAM FUNDED THROUGH MULTNOMAH COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH. AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE. I WORK FOR THE CHI PROGRAM, COMMUNITY HEALING INITIATIVE. AND MY ROLE IS CASE MANAGER. WE PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE FAMILIES AND YOUTH, AS MY CO WORKER, JESUS MENTIONED. WE WORK WITH THE FAMILIES AND YOUTH. WE MEET THE FAMILIES AND YOUTH WHERE THEY ARE. WE WORK WITH THEM AND WE HELP THEM BE SUCCESSFUL AND THRIVE. REALLY GRATEFUL TO SEE FAMILIES AND BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AND YOUTH THAT COME TO US AND SAY I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS ABLE TO DO THIS. I'M HOPEFUL. I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE AND THAT'S REALLY GOOD FOR US TO SEE. I'M HERE TO SAY THANK YOU DESPITE CUTS ON THE BUDGET. WE'RE GRATEFUL WE HAVE THE PROGRAM AND GRATEFUL YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN OUR YOUTH. AND GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP PROVIDING SERVICES FOR THEM. WE SEE HOPE FOR THEM AND BRIGHT FUTURES IN OUR YOUTH. WE PROVIDE CULTURAL SPECIFIC SERVICES AND WE DO SKILL BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND PROVIDE PROGRAM IN GROUPS AND IT'S COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: YOU WANT TO START, SIR?

Kolini Fusitua: YES. GOOD EVENING. MY NAME IS COLENI. PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR FAMILY CENTER YOUTH PREVENTION SERVICES. WE'RE HERE TODAY WITH STAFF AND CLIENT. WE WANT TO REQUEST FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN ASKING THE COUNTY TO PLEASE REVISIT THE PROPOSED CUT. 50% OF OUR YOUTH GAIN PREVENTION PROGRAM. OUR PROGRAM SERVICES PROVIDE SERVICES FOR ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND YOUTH AGES 11 TO 16. WE HAVE FAMILIES THAT ARRIVING HERE AND NOT KNOWING AND YOUTH MOVING FROM BACK HOME. SO ONCE THEY GOT HERE. AND THE ONLY FRIENDS AND NETWORK THEY HAVE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD IS YOUTH IN GANG MEMBERS. SO THEY WANT TO BE LIKE THEM. SO WE WANT TO BE THE ONE INFORMING THE PARENTS OF WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THEIR CHILDREN. WE WORK CLOSE WITH THE CITY'S STREET GANG OUTREACH. AND WE HAVE PACIFIC ISLAND SOUTH WORKING WITH THE OUTREACH. HE PROVIDES REFERRAL AS RECENT AS LAST WEEK. THEY MOVED THERE FROM CALIFORNIA AND THEY ARE AROUND ISLAND GANG IN CALIFORNIA. SO WHEN

THEY WERE HERE, THAT'S WHO THEY ARE COMFORTABLE WITH. AND THEN THE STREET GANG OUTREACH THAT HE'S SUPPORTING US AND PROVIDE INTERVENE AND UPDATE WITH THE FAMILY MAKE SURE DO NOT MOVE ON AND BECOME ANOTHER MEMBER OF A GANG HERE IN PORTLAND. SO AGAIN, PLEASE SUPPORT US. CONTINUE SUPPORTING AND FUNDING YOUTH SERVICES.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. HI.

Public Testimony: HI. THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER CHAIR. I'M ONE OF THE YOUTH ADVOCATE AT ASIAN FAMILY CENTERS YOUTH GANG PREVENTION SERVICES. I AM HERE TO ASK AGAIN ALL OF YOU NOT TO LOOK AT IT AND NOT CUT OUR PROGRAM IN HALF. WE ALSO KNOW THE GANG PROBLEM IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY ARE STILL EXISTS. AND WE ARE THE THIRD LARGEST YOUTH AT RISK AGE 10 TO 17 BASED JUST LAST YEAR. AND YOUTH GANG SERVICES WILL HELP PARENTS AND YOUTH NOT GET IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEMS. SO THAT'S ONE OF THE REASON WHY WE'RE ASKING THAT YOU DON'T CUT OUR PROGRAM IN HALF. CUTTING OUR PROGRAM IN HALF WILL ALSO PUT OUR ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER YOUTH IN JEOPARDY. PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR DECISION AGAIN. I JUST RECENTLY HEAR THIS AND LEARN ABOUT THIS ABOUT ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL. AND WE KNOW A LOT OF THE KIDS NEED SHOES SO WE GIVE THEM ALL SIZE 8 BUT NOT ALL OF THEM WEAR SIZE 8. SO THIS IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE REALLY ASK THAT YOU CONSIDER AND LOOK AT THAT. WHAT KIND OF SERVICE WE ARE SERVING OUR FAMILIES HERE. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Angel Brophy: HELLO, COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS ANGEL. AND I'M A CASE MANAGER WITH THE YOUTH GANG PREVENTION SERVICES. I'M HERE TO ASK OF YOU TO PLEASE CONTINUE FUNDING AND NOT CUT OUR PROGRAM BY 50%. I SERVE KIDS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 11 THROUGH 16 YEARS OLD WHO ARE DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL OR DROPPED. INVOLVED WITH DRUGS OR ALCOHOL, GANG AFFILIATED OR IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM. THESE KIDS HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO VARIOUS TRAUMAS. WHILE WE CAN'T PREVENT THESE, WE CAN PREVENT THEM FROM TAKING THESE PATHS. WE SUPPORT THEM WITH OUR WRAP AROUND SERVICES SUCH AS SCHOOL SUPPLIES, CLOTHES, SHOES, RESUME OR JOB HELP LINKING THEM TO COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL GROUPS. HELPING THEM TRANSITION FROM MIDDLE TO HIGH SCHOOL BY LINKING THEM TO MORE POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT. WE WANT TO PREVENT THEM FROM GOING INTO THE NEGATIVE PATH. MOST OF MY STUDENTS ONLY SEE THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL. WE WANT OUR KIDS TO SEE AND EXPERIENCE THE POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES THAT IS RIGHT FULLY THEIRS. WE ARE SHOWING THEM THAT THEY ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE THAN WHAT STATISTICS OR PEERS OR FAMILIES MAY SHOW. WE WANT A NEED TO SHIFT

THE PARADIGM. IN ORDER TO DO THIS, I PLEAD TO PLEASE CONTINUE THE SUPPORT AND NOT CUT OUR PROGRAM BY 50%. OUR FAMILIES, OUR KIDS NEED OUR FULL SERVICES, NOT JUST A PIECE OF IT. AS THE VIOLENCE COALITION STATES, CONNECTION CREATES CHANGE. HOW DO WE CONNECT IF WE ARE ONLY GIVING HALF OF OURSELVES. SO PLEASE CONSIDER NOT CUTTING THE PROGRAM AND CONTINUE FUNDING FOR OUR YOUTH CARING PREVENTION SERVICES. THANK YOU.

Melba Haldart: GOOD AFTERNOON. MY NAME IS MELBA. I'M ONE OF THE STAFF FROM ASIAN FAMILY CENTER. A CASE MANAGER. I CASE MANAGE A LOT OF STUDENTS FROM THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY AGES 12 TO 17. I'M ALSO HERE TO ASK FOR THE SAME THING. NOT TO CUT THE FUND. WE NEED FOR OUR STUDENTS HERE. WE HAVE OUR STUDENTS HERE INCLUDING ONE OF THEM OVER HERE. YOUTH PREVENTION PROGRAM PROVIDES CULTURAL SUPPORT WHICH IS GREATLY HELPFUL TO A LOT OF OUR STUDENTS HERE. INCLUDING THEIR FAMILY WHO ARE MOSTLY IMMIGRANTS IN THIS COUNTRY. AS A CASE MANAGER PROVIDING SERVICE TO A LOT OF STUDENTS, I'VE SEEN A LOT OF CHANGES. AND THE WORK THAT WE DO WE ASK NOT TO CUT THE FUND. AGAIN, PLEASE DON'T CUT THE FUND TO PREVENT THEM FROM THE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

M.J Joker: I'M MJ. I'M A 7TH GRADER.

Chair Kafoury: PUT THE MICROPHONE A LITTLE CLOSER TO YOU.

M.J Joker: I'M MJ. I'M A 7TH GRADER. I AM ONE OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENT WHO IS IN THE FAMILY CENTER. I'M HERE TO ASK YOU TO DON'T CUT THE FUND FOR OUR PROGRAM. BECAUSE IT BENEFITS MANY IMMIGRANTS INCLUDING MYSELF. ONCE AGAIN, PLEASE DON'T CUT THE FUND FOR THE YOUTH. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES] PLEASE COME FORWARD.

Chair Kafoury: WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST? YOU READY?

Jamila Myrick: HELLO. LOOKING AT A PUZZLE, YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE TO BEGIN. MY NAME IS JAMILLA AND CHI HAS BEEN ONE BIG PUZZLE PIECE I HAVE FOUND. CHI HAS HELPED MY FAMILY. HELPED ME AND MY FAMILY. I WOULD LIKE TO LET YOU IN ON DIFFERENT STAFF MEMBERS THAT HAVE MADE A HUGE IMPRINT IN MY FAMILY'S LIFE. ONE PARTICULAR FAMILY STOOD OUT TO ME. THIS WOMAN WAS SITTING IN THE GRASS INTERACTING WITH HER CHILDREN AND OTHERS. WE SPOKE TO EACH OTHER. I FOUND OUT LATER, THAT WAS THE DIRECTOR OF CHI, KIM. HER FAMILY BLENDED SO WELL, I COULDN'T TELL SHE WAS THE DIRECTOR. THAT LET ME KNOW CHI

WAS VERY WELCOMING. WHEN I THINK OF CHI STAFF, THEY ARE ALL AMAZING. BUT TWO OF THEM HAVE HELPED MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MY FAMILY'S LIFE. THEY ARE BOB AND ANETTE. HE CAME INTO MY FAMILY'S LIFE WHEN RELATIONSHIPS WERE FRAGILE AND BROKEN. HE HAS HELPED ME TO UNDERSTAND MY CHILD AND HELPED MY CHILD TO UNDERSTAND ME BETTER. BY LOOKING AT SITUATIONS FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW. THE OTHER PERSON IS ANETTE. SHE HAS HELPED AND SHOWED ME HOW IMPORTANT AND VALUABLE IT IS TO TAKE OUT TIME. CHI IS NEEDED IN THE COMMUNITY TO CONTINUE HELPING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER. THAT IS WHY I WOULD LIKE FOR FUNDING TO BE CONTINUED WITH CHI FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMISSIONERS FOR TAKING TIME TO LISTEN TO ME. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO GIVE A BIG THANK YOU TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE FOR FUNDING OUR PROGRAM.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Sophia Mastroiene: HI. MY NAME IS SOPHIA AND I'M A CLIENT AT THE CENTER. I'M 16 YEARS OLD AND I HAVE SIX MONTHS SOBER. THANK YOU. I WENT TO REHAB FOR THE FIRST TIME WHEN I WAS 15 YEARS OLD. AND IN THAT YEAR I WENT TWICE. DURING THAT TIME, NOBODY REALLY THOUGHT I COULD BE ANYTHING. AND WHILE I WAS IN TREATMENT, THEY TOOK US TO 4D. AND THAT'S HOW I MET EVERYONE THERE. AND I LOVE THAT PLACE AND GO THERE EVERY SINGLE FRIDAY. I GO TO ALL THE MEETINGS THERE. I'M SO HAPPY I HAVE A PLACE TO GO THAT I FEEL SAFE AND NO ONE IS GOING TO BE THERE TO TRIGGER ME TO USE. I CAN ALWAYS FIND SOMEONE TO TALK TO AND FIND SUPPORT THERE. I HAVE A MENTOR THERE. SHE TAKES ME PLACES AND THAT'S AMAZING. AND THIS FALL, I'M GOING TO START COLLEGE. I AM WORKING ON GETTING MY GED RIGHT NOW. SO I JUST THINK THAT, YOU KNOW, COMPARED TO ABOUT A YEAR AGO WHEN I WAS HOMELESS. I WAS LIVING ON THE STREETS, I WAS HIGH ALL THE TIME. AND NOW I AM SO HAPPY. AND I LOVE MY LIFE. AND I LOVE BEING SOBER. I'M JUST SO GRATEFUL FOR 4D AND EVERYTHING THEY'VE DONE FOR ME. SO THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU.

Etta Harris: HI. MY NAME IS ETTA HARRIS. THANK YOU FOR LETTING US SPEAK TODAY. I AM WITH ONE OF THE CHI PROGRAMS, THE PARENT GROUP. AND I CAME TO THEM, I WAS REFERRED TO THEM BECAUSE OF MY SON WHO I DIDN'T HAVE NO CONTROL OVER. AND I NEEDED SUPPORT TO MAKE ME UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH MY SON AND WITH ME AND TO HAVE SOMEBODY HEAR ME TALK AND HEAR MY VOICE AND LET ME VENT. AND WITHIN THIS PROGRAM, THE SERVICE I RECEIVED WAS THEY PROVIDED ME WITH A JOB WHICH I'M CURRENTLY STILL WORKING. BEEN EMPLOYED FOR TWO YEARS AND BEEN WITH CHI PROGRAM FOR FOUR YEARS. THEY

HAVE BEEN REALLY A BLESSING. I REALLY LOVE THE PROGRAM. I'M SO GLAD THAT I WAS INVOLVED IN THE PROGRAM. I'M STILL ACTIVE IN THE PROGRAM AS A PARENT. AND STILL ADVOCATE FOR THEM. THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO HEAR US.

Michael Braxton: FIRST OF ALL, I ACTUALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS BY MISTAKE. I GOT AN EMAIL FROM IMPACT NORTHWEST ABOUT THE FUNDING BEING CUT AND IT WASN'T CUT. BUT I'M GRATEFUL. I'M BOTH GRATEFUL AND HUMBLLED TO BE ABLE TO MEET ALL OF YOU AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TODAY. WHAT I'D LIKE TO DO IS INTRODUCE YOU TO AN ORGANIZATION THAT YOU PROBABLY HAVE NOT HEARD ABOUT.

Chair Kafoury: INTRODUCE YOURSELF AS WELL.

Michael Braxton: MY NAME IS MICHAEL BRAXTON. I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMPOWERMENT CLINIC. WE HAVE TWO LOCATIONS IN PORTLAND. WE JUST OPENED A LOCATION ON 90TH AND DIVISION. AND ONE IN PORTLAND ON MLK. AND SO WHAT WE DO I'VE LISTENED TO A LOT OF PEOPLE TALK AND HEARD THE WORD PEOPLE OF COLOR. WE SPECIALIZE IN TREATMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS. SO AT THE VERY FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TREATMENT SUMMIT WHICH WAS ERIC MARTIN, THE DIRECTOR, ONE OF THE POLICY LIAISON DID A SPECIAL ON OUR CLINIC. AND AT THE TIME, WE HAD A 100% SUCCESS RATE. THAT RATE NOW IS 75%. RETENTION RATE IS 70% WHICH IS THE HIGHEST OUT OF ANY TREATMENT PROGRAM IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. WE HAVE TWO CULTURALLY SPECIFIC WOMEN'S HOUSES. WE HAVE TEN WOMEN IN EACH HOUSE AND ALL THE WOMEN HAVE OVER ONE YEAR OF SOBRIETY. WE HAVE A MEN'S HOUSE THAT'S BEEN OPENED ABOUT 90 DAYS NOW. WE PROVIDE OUTPATIENT LEVEL ONE AND LEVEL TWO MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT, GAMBLING TREATMENT. AND THE REASON WHY I'M HERE, ONE IS TO TALK ABOUT THE SERVICES THAT WE PROVIDE. BUT ALSO, WE HAVE A JAIL END REACH POSITION. WE HAVE APPLICATION ASSISTERS. INDIVIDUALS THAT NEED INSURANCE, WE HAVE INDIVIDUALS THAT SIGN THEM UP. WHAT'S HAPPENING IS THE FUNDING THAT MULTNOMAH COUNTY IS PROVIDING US, THERE'S ABOUT A \$6,000 GAP IN THAT AND THE ACTUAL SERVICES THAT WE ARE PROVIDING TO CLIENTS. SO IT WOULD BE GREAT IF THE GENERAL FUND COULD BE INCREASED FOR CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES IN PARTICULAR FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS. WE ARE THE ONLY AFRICAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE OF

>> I'M NOT SURE WHAT HE'S ADVOCATING FOR.

>> EMPOWERMENT CLINIC.

Chair Kafoury: WE ARE TAKING NOTES. SOME OF THE PROGRAMS BEING DISCUSSED TONIGHT ARE BEING CUT FULLY, SOME HALF, SOME NONE. SO WE'LL SORT IT ALL OUT AND GIVE PEOPLE DETAILS.

Michael Braxton: EMPOWERMENT CLINIC INCORPORATED. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT OUR WEB SITE. THANK YOU.

Public Testimony: I'M A QNHP WITH EMPOWERMENT CLINIC. I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT ADDICTION AND RECOVERY. NO ONE WOKE UP AND SAID I WANT TO BE AN ALCOHOLIC OR DRUG ADDICT. THAT WAS NO ONE'S DREAMS. PEOPLE OF COLOR, WHEN WE GO TO TREATMENT CENTERS WHERE THERE IS NOT ANY CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TREATMENT, WE FAIL. WE ARE NOT AT THE TABLE WHEN THE CURRICULUM IS BEING CREATED. SO THUS, DUE TO HISTORICAL TRAUMA AS WELL, WE MUST OPEN UP TO SOMEONE THAT NOT ONLY HAVE BEEN THE PERPETRATOR OF THE HISTORICAL TRAUMA, BUT STILL PERPETRATING TRAUMA AMONGST POPULATIONS OF COLOR TODAY. BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO OPEN UP OR TELL OUR BUSINESS. IF WE DON'T DO THIS IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME, THEN WE'RE DEEMED NOT AMEANABLE TO TREATMENT. SO WHAT WE DO IS RESPOND TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE THROUGH A CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE LENS. WE BRIDGE THAT GAP SO POPULATIONS OF COLOR DO GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE THE TREATMENT THEY NEED IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL. REALLY GRATEFUL FOR HIS VISION TO SEE POPULATIONS OF COLOR GET ADDICTION NEEDS MET. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST? YOU READY, SIR?

Robert Lahaie: HI. MY NAME IS ROBERT. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU. WELCOME. HOW DO I SAY THIS? I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CHI PROGRAM FOR HELPING ME GETTING OFF PROBATION, GOING TO SCHOOL, TRYING TO GET MY GED. DOING THEY ARE A GOOD PROGRAM. THEY HELP ME DO A LOT OF GOOD THINGS BEFORE. THINGS LIKE THAT. SO THAT'S ALL I LIKE TO SAY. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. [ APPLAUSE ]

Chair Kafoury: YOU ARE NEXT.

Sir Kelly: HI. MY NAME IS SIR KELLY. I'M 17. I GO TO ROSEMARY HIGH SCHOOL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND HAVING US HERE. I'M PART OF THE CHI PROGRAM. WHEN I FIRST GOT IN, I WASN'T REALLY INTO IT. I HAD

GOT INTRODUCED TO MY MENTOR. SO WHEN I GOT OUT, IT WASN'T REALLY LIKE NOTHING I CARED FOR. OVER THE TIME, I GOT TO KNOW MY MENTOR AND THE OTHER STAFF. THERE WAS PEOPLE I KNEW INSIDE THERE. SO I JUST GAVE IT A TRY. THE CHI PROGRAM HAS IMPACTED MY LIFE MAJORLY. IT HAS SHOWED ME THERE'S BETTER AND SMARTER THINGS OUT THERE TO DO AND BETTER THINGS IN LIFE THAN JUST RUNNING THE STREETS. IT ALSO SHOWED ME HOW TO LIVE A NORMAL TEENAGE LIFE. GROWING UP, I WASN'T REALLY I HAD TO GROW UP WAY BEFORE MY AGE. I FEEL LIKE THE FUNDING SHOULD KEEP GOING. THE CHI PROGRAM IS NEEDED AND SHOULD BE OFFERED TO ANYONE WHO WANTS IT. IT'S A USEFUL AND UPLIFTING PROGRAM. AND IT'S FUN FROM THE MENTORS TO JUST THE PEOPLE PERIOD. THE MOST THING I LIKE ABOUT IT IS THEY ACTUALLY CARE. THEY ARE THERE FOR YOU. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANKS FOR COMING. [ APPLAUSE ]

Anette Majekodecumi: HI. MY NAME IS ANETTE. I'M NOW A CASE MANAGER FOR THE CHI PROGRAM. AND JUST A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO, I WAS JUST LIKE MY COUNTERPARTS WHO WERE UP HERE BEFORE ME. I WAS A CHI PARENT. I CAME INTO THE SYSTEM BECAUSE OF MY SON. HE GOT INTO SOME TROUBLE. AND AT THAT TIME, I WAS PRETTY DEFEATED. BUT THROUGH THE CHI PROGRAM AND GOING TO PARENT GROUPS, I WAS ABLE TO THEN BECOME A PARENT ADVOCATE AND NOW A CASE MANAGER. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE MY EDUCATION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITH MASTER'S DEGREE. SO I REALLY JUST WANT TO SAY THE CHI PROGRAM WORKS. AND THANK YOU FOR LETTING US COME AND PLEASE CONTINUE FUNDING FOR THE WORK THAT WE DO. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANKS FOR THE GOOD WORK YOU DO. [ APPLAUSE ]

Stephanie Anderson: HELLO. MY NAME IS STEPHANIE ANDERSON. I'M A MEMBER OF LOCAL 88. AND A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY. CRIME, POVERTY, RACIAL DISPARITIES, ADDICTIONS, HOMELESSNESS. THESE ARE SOME OF THE MANY NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITIES OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY. ONE WAY TO IMPACT THESE ISSUES AND SUPPORT THE WELL BEING OF THE COMMUNITY IS FUNDING EDUCATION THROUGH THE LEARNING CENTER WHICH IS PART OF THE NEW CHANGE CENTER. THERE IS SO MUCH THAT COULD BE SAID ABOUT THE BENEFITS. OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, YOU'VE HEARD MANY PERSONAL STORIES. AND I COULD TELL YOU TONIGHT ABOUT THE EXPERIENCED EDUCATORS THAT USE BEST PRACTICES IN EDUCATION AND COGNITIVE CHANGE SERVING CLIENTS WHO ARE AT MEDIUM TO HIGH RISK TO COMMIT MORE CRIMES. I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THE CHANGE ITSELF WHICH HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEAD IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE BECAUSE IT IMPLEMENTS A POWERFUL COMBINATION OF EDUCATION AND COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS WHICH ALIGNS WITH EVIDENCE BASED RESEARCH. I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THE CLIENTS

WHO, THROUGH EDUCATION, FIND THEY CAN LEARN AND CAN APPLY THESE SKILLS TO CONTINUE TREATMENT AND KNOW HOW TO WORK THROUGH OTHER TOUGH CHALLENGES. AND ESSENTIALLY, KNOW THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE. INVESTING IN EDUCATION AT THE CHANGE CENTER IMPACTS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND MAKES THE LARGER COMMUNITY STRONGER. WHEN PEOPLE BELIEVE CHANGE IS POSSIBLE, EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Chair Kafoury: YOU CAN BEGIN, MA'AM.

Elisha BigBack: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR AND FELLOW COMMISSIONERS. I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF NAYA FAMILY CENTERS PROGRAMMING. I'M ACTUALLY THE INTERIM FOSTER CARE SUPPORT MANAGER AND THE PATHWAYS TO ADULTHOOD ILP PROGRAM COORDINATOR. SO I WORK SPECIFICALLY WITH YOUTH. IN ONE PROGRAM WE WORK FROM 0 TO 24 IN FOSTER CARE SUPPORT AND WE UTILIZE THE PARENT ADVOCATES AND THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS PRETTY SIGNIFICANTLY. IN PATHWAYS, I WORK WITH YOUTH 16 TO 24 IN LEARNING TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD AND LEARNING INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS. SO ESPECIALLY IN THE LAST YEAR, IT'S BEEN PRETTY HARD TO CONNECT TO THE ADVOCATES BECAUSE THEY ARE SPREAD SO THIN. AND I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU FOR OUR EXISTING RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE WITH THE COUNTY. BUT I WOULD ALSO REQUEST YOU REVISIT THE CUTS ALREADY MADE AND CONSIDER THE NEED FOR CULTURALLY SPECIFIC SERVICES THAT THE CENTER PROVIDES TO OUR YOUTH. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Tamara Culla: GOOD EVENING, EVERYONE. MY NAME IS TAMARA. AND I'M HERE AS AN ADVOCATE FOR IMPACT NORTHWEST. A YEAR AGO, I HAD A REALLY DARK DAY AND ALMOST A YEAR OF GETTING MY FAMILY BACK. AND WORKING WITHIN THE LEGAL SYSTEM TO GET IT BACK TOGETHER. THIS PROGRAM HAS GIVEN ME AND SO MANY OTHER PEOPLE THAT I KNOW THE ABILITY TO GET BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK AND TAKE OUR FAMILIES BACK, OUR KIDS, OUR EXTENDED FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AND MAKE SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE. DON'T LEAVE US SITTING IN THE SIDELINE HERE. WE REALLY NEED THE HELP. AND I KNOW THEY WORK SO EXTREMELY HARD. THEY DON'T BACK UP ON US AND DON'T LET US FAIL. THEY MAKE US WORK FOR WHAT WE WANT TO GO FORWARD. THIS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PROGRAM THAT'S ALREADY SO INCREDIBLY ENGULFED IN THE COMMUNITY AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OTHER ADULTS LIKE MYSELF GET THE CHANCE. ONCE WE WANT TO GO FORWARD, WE CAN. WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST,

WE CAN'T CHANGE. BUT WITH THE THINGS THESE PEOPLE ARE GIVING US WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES AND THE ABILITY TO MAKE OURSELVES BETTER, I THINK THAT'S REALLY WHERE WE'RE TRYING TO GO. AND I KNOW FUNDING IS TIGHT AND EVERYBODY NEEDS WHAT THEY NEED. BUT GIVE US A CHANCE TO KEEP GOING FORWARD AND DOING THE RIGHT THING. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Victor Boomo-Jeks: MY NAME IS VICTOR. I'M THE CLINICAL DIRECTOR OVER AT VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA. AND I'D LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE LEARNING CENTER. PART OF MY ROLE IS TO BE ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE THAT A CLIENT MEETS AS AN INTRODUCTION. I PROVIDE THE REFERRALS AND ONE THING THAT'S VERY INTERESTING ABOUT THAT ROLE IS THAT CLIENTS DON'T TYPICALLY LIKE TO SEE ME. IT'S NOT A THING THAT MANY CLIENTS REALLY FEEL AS IMPORTANT WHEN THEY FIRST ENTER TREATMENT. AND I'VE BEEN CALLED PROBABLY EVERY WORD IN THE BOOK REFERRING CLIENTS INITIALLY. THAT'S PART OF WHY I WANT TO BE HERE TODAY. EVEN THOUGH I KIND OF EXPERIENCED THAT, WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS AND THAT SAME NIGHT, THE CLIENTS RETURN WITH SO MUCH GRATITUDE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE EDUCATION OR MAKE ANY KIND OF PROGRESS IN VOCATIONAL GOALS. A COUPLE OF THE STORIES I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE IS WHEN I HAD A CLIENT THAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST RESISTANT PEOPLE TO ATTEND THE LEARNING CENTER JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO CAME INTO MY OFFICE AND HE SAT DOWN WITH ME AND HE WROTE OUT THREE LETTER WORD. HE SAID THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE HAD EVER BEEN ABLE TO WRITE A THREE LETTER WORD IN HIS LIFE. THERE'S SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT THAT PROGRAM. I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY DO THAT MAKES IT SOMETHING THAT CLIENTS ACCESS. WHEN I HEARD ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FUNDING CUT, I WAS DEEPLY WORRIED. I DON'T THINK THE ALTERNATIVE RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY ARE PREPARED TO TAKE ON THE COMPLEX NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Heather Penzel: HI. MY NAME IS HEATHER. I'M A RECOVERY SPECIALIST. PART OF THE ROSE PROGRAM. I'M HERE WITH LIZ AND JOSEPH AND WE JUST WANTED TO COME AND THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE ROSE PROGRAM. I'VE BEEN ON STAFF FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS. I'VE HAD THE HONOR OF SUPERVISING A YOUTH I MET ON OUTREACH YEARS AGO AS A HOMELESS TEENAGER ON THIRD STREET WHO HAS MADE HER WAY THROUGH OUR PROGRAMMING AND WAS ONE OF MY SUPERVISEES AS A PEER MENTOR. WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF RECOMMENDING MANY OF OUR CLIENTS TO PROGRAMS LIKE NAYA AND FOURTH DIMENSION AND IMPACT NORTHWEST. WE ARE THE FIRST LINE OF CONTACT WITH MANY OF THE YOUTH THAT COME IN. SO WE JUST WANTED TO COME IN AND THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PROGRAM AND SHARE OUR OWN STORIES.

Chair Kafoury: GREAT. THANKS.

Heather Panzel: THE REASON WHY I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU IS BECAUSE OF ONE BELIEF I HAVE. ANYBODY IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING AS LONG AS THEY ARE GIVEN THE RESOURCES TO DO IT. AND THE RESOURCES DON'T EVEN HAVE TO BE THAT MUCH. BUS TICKETS. IT ALLOWED ME TO GET TO MOUNT HOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE SO I CAN WORK ON MY DEGREE. THE RESOURCE CENTER LET ME WORK ON THE COMPUTER SO I CAN GET A JOB. ALL THESE LITTLE THINGS NECESSARY. AND I CAN'T FATHOM TO THINK HOW MUCH IT COST YOU GUYS. IF I WAS A MILLIONAIRE, IF I WAS A BILLIONAIRE AND I ACTUALLY HAD THAT MUCH MONEY LAYING AROUND, I CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER PLACE TO PUT IT. WITHOUT HEATHER, WITHOUT THE PROGRAM, I'D BE THE DRUNK PASSED OUT IN THE PARKING LOT RIGHT NOW WITH NOTHING ELSE TO DO AND NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. THAT'S WHY I PERSONALLY WANT TO SAY THANK YOU. I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING THE NORTHWEST IMPACT BUILDING. AS A YOUTH I'VE DEALT WITH DISASSOCIATION AND TO COME AND DROP IN, DROP THE STAFF AND I'VE SEEN SEVERAL PEOPLE COME IN WITH VARIOUS YOUTH. FOR STAFF TO SIT BACK AND UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON AND BE ABLE TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE IS AWESOME. THANK YOU. YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. YOU TOO.

Board Clerk: [READS NAMES]

Tony Vezna: I KNOW WE'RE SHORT ON TIME SO I'LL START. MY NAME IS TONY. I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION RECOVERY CENTER. I'M ALSO ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE OREGON HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE. BOARD MEMBER OF MAPS WHICH IS A TRADE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS THE NEEDS OF ADDICTION PEERS IN THE TRI COUNTY AREA. THERE'S ABOUT 300 OF US. I'M PAST STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT. I'M IN RECOVERY. I'VE BEEN SOBER FOR ALMOST FIVE YEARS. BEFORE THAT, I WAS HOMELESS, I WAS A HEROIN ADDICT. I USED DRUGS, I STOLE FROM STORES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I'VE BEEN TO JAIL THERE. I'M ALSO A RECIPIENT OF SERVICES. SO I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU GUYS FOR PROVIDING SERVICES BECAUSE THEY DO WORK WHEN WE INVEST IN THEM. I WENT TO VOA. VICTOR IS MY COUNSELOR. HE'S A REAL GOOD DUDE. THE COOL THING IS THEY MEET YOU WHERE YOU ARE AT. I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW WHAT I WANTED TO DO WITH MY LIFE. BUT THEY JUST WORKED WITH ME AND HELPED ME GET MY GED. AT 27 YEARS OLD, I REMEMBER CRYING BECAUSE IT'S THE FIRST THING I EVER DONE. I GOT 12 FREE CREDITS TO GO TO PCC WHICH IS AGAINST THE CULTURE OF TREATMENT. THEY DIDN'T WANT ME TO GO TO SCHOOL. I HAD TO FIGHT TO GO TO SCHOOL. GOING TO COLLEGE CHANGED MY LIFE. HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE I COMMITTED CRIMES, TO EMPLOY PEOPLE IS CHANGING MY LIFE, IT'S CHANGING THE COMMUNITY. I'D ALSO JUST REALLY

LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT ALL OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE TODAY WHO CAME TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR NEEDS. IF WE CAN GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE. THAT GIVES ME HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. I KNOW YOU HAVE A REALLY DIFFICULT TIME WITH EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL, THE STATE. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW HARD IT IS. I WOULD IMPLORE YOU TO TAKE EVERY OUNCE TO FIND WAYS TO FUND THESE PROGRAMS. THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME TALK.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Mathew Cooper: HI. MY NAME IS MATTHEW COOPER. I HAVE STRUGGLED AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION, ALCOHOLISM INCARCERATION SINCE AGE 13. I HAVE BEEN UNEMPLOYABLE AND ENDURED STIGMA AS A CHILD ATTACHED TO STATUS AND CLASS DIFFERENCE. IN DECEMBER OF 2014, I COMMITTED A FELONY WHILE TRYING TO END MY LIFE. I NEVER DENIED MY CRIME AND TRULY BELIEVED I HAD NO PLACE IN SOCIETY OUTSIDE LONG TERM INCARCERATION. I WAS OFFERED A CHANCE TO GO TO REHABILITATION THROUGH MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND I TOOK IT. I'M A TRANSFER STUDENT WORKING TOWARDS A DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY AND IN GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING. I'VE HAD A JOB AND REMAINED EMPLOYED. I HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE, INSURANCE AND A VEHICLE AND LIVED AT THE SAME ADDRESS GOING ON THREE YEARS. I'M AN INTERN AT FOURTH DIMENSION THROUGH PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE WHERE I WORK AS A WORK STUDY STUDENT. I VOLUNTEER AT VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA. AND LEE A SON TO COMMUNITY CHURCH. MOST IMPORTANTLY, I'VE NOT USED DRUGS, COMMITTED A CRIME OR TAKEN FROM THE COMMUNITY SINCE GIVEN AN ALTERNATIVE FOR ASSISTANCE TO ADDICTION SERVICES SPECIFICALLY PEER DELIVERED SERVICES. THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Katy Irion: HI. MY NAME IS KATY. I'M 19. I'M AN ADDICT IN RECOVERY. AND I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU GUYS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS. HOW MUCH I'VE BENEFITED FROM RECEIVING SERVICES IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO WITHOUT THEM. THEY HAVE SAVED MY LIFE AND THE LIVES OF MY FRIENDS. IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT I AND THE PEOPLE AROUND ME ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE USING THOSE RESOURCES. THANK YOU.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Christina Albo: GOOD EVENING, CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS. MY NAME IS CHRISTINA. I'M THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RESOLUTIONS NORTHWEST. I'M HERE TONIGHT TO THANK YOU FIRST FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN SCHOOL'S INITIATIVE AND SHARE WITH YOU THE IMPORTANCE OF THAT ON GOING COMMITMENT. IN THE PORTLAND METRO AREA AND THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF OREGON, ACTUALLY. YOU'VE INVESTED NEARLY \$120,000 A YEAR IN TRAINING AND CONSULTATION OF RESTORATIVE

JUSTICE IN SCHOOLS SINCE 2008. I AM HERE TO REQUEST THAT YOU CONSIDER REINSTATING \$75,000 OF THAT FUNDING IN THE NEXT BUDGET CYCLE. THE FUNDING HAS BEEN CRITICAL TO SUPPORTING EAST COUNTY SCHOOLS SPECIFICALLY AND ADOPTING THE PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROVIDING YOUTH THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT WHEN THEY DO SOMETHING WRONG IN SCHOOL THAT IMPACTS OTHER PEOPLE. I REALLY WANT TO EMPHASIZE WE'RE AT A TIPPING POINT RIGHT NOW IN THE RENOLDS SCHOOL DISTRICT. WE'VE SEEN POSITIVE RESULTS TO DATE. AT RENOLDS MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE NUMBER OF DISCIPLINED INCIDENTS DROPPED 25% FOR LATINO MALES. AND AT HB LEE MIDDLE SCHOOL, INCIDENTS DROPPED 43% FOR BLACK MALES. WE WILL NOT ONLY BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THAT WORK BUT WE WILL HAVE THE TIME AND CAPACITY TO SUPPORT THE DISTRICT LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS MORE SCHOOLS. I BELIEVE THAT IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE SUPPORT SCHOOLS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN A WAY THAT WILL KEEP THEM CONNECTED, POSITIVELY CONNECTED TO SCHOOL EVEN WHEN THEY MAKE MISTAKES AND POOR DECISIONS. I BELIEVE THIS IS WHAT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DOES. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TONIGHT.

Chair Kafoury: THANK YOU. [ APPLAUSE ]

Chair Kafoury: ALL RIGHT. WELL, LOOKS LIKE WE GOT ONE MORE? OH, HE'S HIGH FIVING. WHEN YOU RAISE YOUR HAND, YOU GET CALLED ON. THANK YOU, ALL, FOR COMING AND STICKING AROUND TO THE VERY END. THIS WAS, I THINK, A GREAT EVENING. A LOT OF REALLY GOOD TESTIMONY. AND I APPRECIATE HEARING FROM ALL OF YOU. AGAIN, I KNOW THIS IS OUR LAST PUBLIC HEARING. BUT THIS IS NOT YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY. WE WILL BE VOTING ON THE BUDGET ON THURSDAY MAY THE 25TH. SO UNTIL THEN, PLEASE REACH OUT AND CONTACT OUR OFFICES. OUR AMAZING STAFF ARE STILL HERE IN THE BACK AS WELL IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ANY OF THEM. THANKS FOR COMING AND HAVE A GREAT EVENING.

**ADJOURNMENT – 07:57 p.m.**

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Submitted by:

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