

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. 06-043

Proclaiming April 2006 Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Child abuse is preventable. To truly prevent child abuse, however, will take the efforts of each and every citizen in Multnomah County.
- b. In Oregon in 2004 there were 10,622 confirmed victims of abuse/neglect, a 12.4% increase from 2003. Eight children died as a result, five children from abuse and three from neglect. Of these confirmed victims, half were younger than 6 years old, and most of them were infants.
- c. In Multnomah County, there were 2,100 confirmed victims of child abuse in 2004.
- d. The Oregon Department of Human Services has a Child Welfare Department dedicated to protecting Oregon's abused and neglected children. It provides foster care services, supportive and remedial services, including but not limited to, counseling, family counseling, sexual abuse treatment, family decision meetings and parent training.
- e. The Multnomah County Commissioner on Children, Families and Community convenes the Child Youth and Family Network. The purpose of the Network is to promote comprehensive, collaborative, and coordinated prevention and intervention services and supports to improve the safety and well being of children. The CCFC helps to fund several child abuse prevention and intervention services, including Healthy Start, Family and Community Alliance, CASA, and the two local Relief Nurseries.
- f. Under the Multnomah County Health Department, the Family Services Unit provides and coordinates supervision, intervention and treatment for parents on probation, parole and post-prison supervision with their primary focus on safety. Also under the Health Department, the Children's Assessment Service provides physical assessment, referrals to other services and health education for children in DHS custody for abuse and neglect.
- g. Multnomah County houses the Children's Receiving Center which provides 24-hour service and care for abused and neglected children through the Christie School. This program provides a neutral and friendly environment for children who have been removed from their homes. Respite foster care is also available, and all children are accepted so as not to separate siblings.
- h. The Multnomah County District Attorney's office also plays an integral role in child abuse prevention through the Child Abuse Team which reviews and processes cases and reports involving child abuse in a domestic setting or by child care providers. Using an integrated team of prosecutors, child specialists, and police investigators, the team reviews, coordinates and investigates cases, then decides how to proceed.


- i. It is our duty to report suspected child abuse. Warning signs of child abuse include nervousness around adults, aggression, frequent or unexplained bruises and injuries, and low self-esteem. Suspected child abuse can be reported at the 24-hour Child Abuse Reporting Hotline at (503) 731-3100.
- j. Prevention means more than reporting child abuse. It means working to stop abuse before it starts. Child abuse prevention will succeed if our County, our schools, our religious organizations, our law enforcement agencies and the community as a whole partner in this effort.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

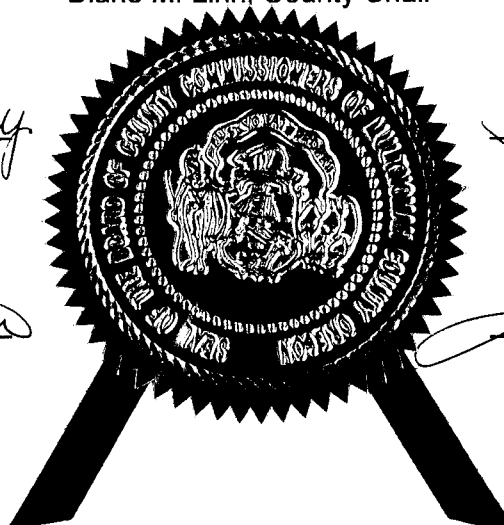
- 1. The month of April 2006 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.
- 2. The Board of County Commissioners calls upon all citizens to increase their participation in the effort to prevent child abuse. The Board encourages citizens to participate in events planned for the month of April to raise awareness of child abuse.
- 3. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes the hard work performed by Multnomah County departments and staff to reduce child abuse in our community by providing the important services to those children who are victims of abuse.


ADOPTED this 6th day of April, 2006.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

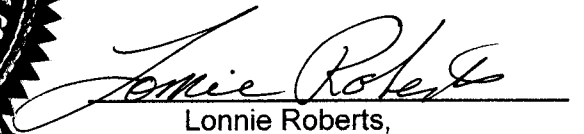

Diane M. Linn, County Chair


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Commissioner District 1




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Commissioner District 2


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Commissioner District 3


Lonnie Roberts,
Commissioner District 4