

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

**PROCLAMATION NO. 2016-088**

Proclaiming September 2016 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Alcohol use during pregnancy is the leading cause of developmental disabilities and birth defects in the US, affecting more infants per year than Spina Bifida, Downs Syndrome and Muscular Dystrophy combined.
- b. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is an umbrella term used to describe the range of effects that can occur in an individual prenatally exposed to alcohol. This brain injury, often invisible, can cause numerous problems associated with cognitive and executive functioning, resulting in learning disabilities, problems in school, behavioral and mental health issues, increased need for social services and foster home placements, and, notably, higher contact rates with the criminal justice system than with those not impacted by an FASD.
- c. FASD is costly. The annual cost to the US is \$6.0 billion per year in direct health care and social services to identified individuals. Estimates reveal that by preventing one case of Fetal Alcohol, \$587,000 is saved in services over the first 15 years of that individual's life.
- d. FASD produces a life-long disability with multigenerational implications requiring a holistic, trauma informed, relational, integrated systems approach, that understands the reciprocal nature of prevention and intervention.
  - a. The Institute of Medicine has said that "of all the substances of abuse, including cocaine, heroin, amphetamines and marijuana, alcohol produces by far the most serious neural behavioral effects on the fetus."
- e. Recognizing the implications of FASD's global impact across all life settings, training in FASD for all Multnomah County service providers will increase effective service delivery and diminish rates of recidivism. We know this because:
  - a. 95% of people with an FASD have co-occurring behavioral and mental health issues.
  - b. 60% of people with an FASD (over the age of 12) have been charged with crime.
  - c. 55% of people with an FASD will be directed to a drug and alcohol treatment center, a psychiatric institution or a prison, with over 75% of them requiring multiple and/or continual treatment/therapeutic settings.
  - d. 73-80% of children with an FASD on the moderate to severe range are placed within the foster system.

- f. Studies demonstrate that current best practice for effective strategies includes trauma informed FASD training and delivery in culturally congruent screening and assessment; generating collaborative and integrated programming service and delivery.
- g. Multnomah County has cooperatively partnered with the Future Generations Collaborative to develop a multi-modal model with four strategic approaches (research and evaluation, service delivery, education, and policy making) that are well positioned to positively impact those living with an FASD as well as to engage systems and service providers within Multnomah County in FASD training and technical assistance, to cognitively retailor client delivery strategies and implement trauma-informed, positive and appropriate screening and assessment for individuals and families impacted by an FASD.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:**

The month of September 2016 to be Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Awareness Month in Multnomah County. We invite all residents of Multnomah County to observe this month with activities that support this year's theme: "Healthy Babies = Healthy Futures."

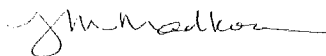
**ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 2016.**



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
Deborah Kafoury, Chair

REVIEWED:  
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



By \_\_\_\_\_  
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney