



Department of County Human Services



Safe, healthy, caring and diverse communities where hope, independence, learning and opportunity prevail for all.

DEFENDING CHILDHOOD PROTECT HEAL THRIVE

Board of County Commissioners Briefing
June 16, 2011

Presentation Overview

- Information on the Defending Childhood Initiative
- Findings from local community assessment
- Plan for implementation over next three years

Defending Childhood Initiative

- OJJDP grant to address epidemic of children's exposure to violence through prevention, intervention, public awareness
 - All forms of violence, birth-17
 - Direct victimization and witnessing
- National survey (http://web.multco.us/sites/default/files/defending-childhood/documents/03-national_children_exposed_to_violence_survey.pdf)
 - 60% of children exposed to violence
 - 40% exposed to multiple forms of violence
 - Extreme risk of lifelong negative consequences

Multnomah County Participation

- Chosen last fall as one of 8 demonstration sites for one-year planning grant
- DCHS led broad collaborative process involving multiple systems and agencies across the county
 - Court, law enforcement, school districts, non-profits, child welfare, service providers
 - Led by Commissioner Judy Shiprack

National Research Findings

- Exposure to violence far more common than assumed, across all socio-economic strata
- Exposure to multiple forms of violence poses highest risk of trauma
- Untreated trauma in childhood linked to significant difficulties in adulthood

Community Assessment: Key Findings

- Demographic Shifts
 - Growth areas of County have shifted East
 - Fastest growing population groups are communities of color, who now comprise about 26% of total population (45% of school-aged children)
- Poverty
 - Number of families living in poverty is increasing across the County; poverty is associated with childhood exposure to violence

Most Prevalent Forms of Violence Locally

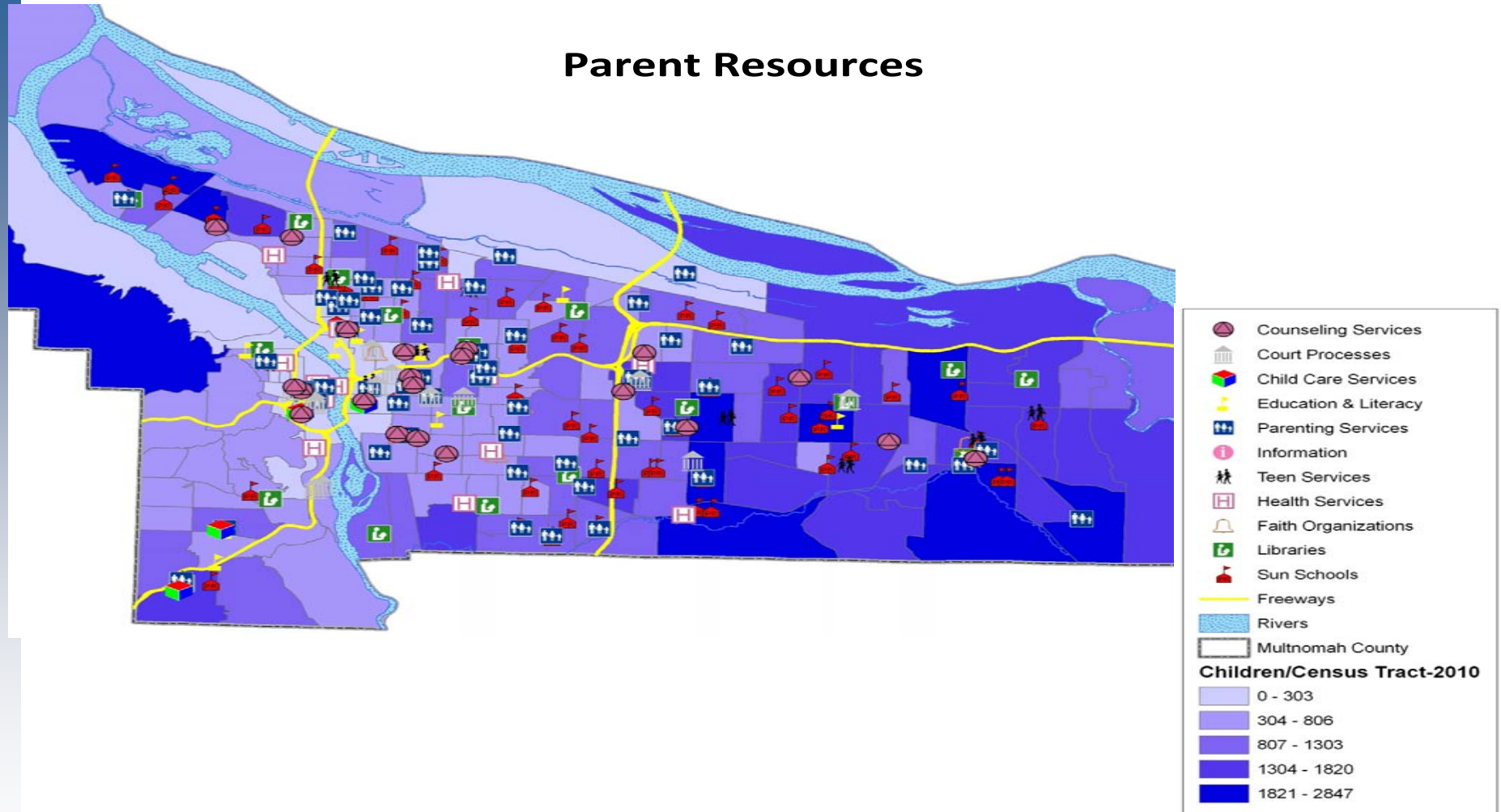
- Domestic violence
- Dating violence & sexual violence
- Bullying & peer violence
- Child maltreatment
- Gang violence

Community Assessment: Gaps and Barriers

- Limited understanding across systems of the prevalence of violence exposure, its consequences for children, and appropriate responses
 - Professional silos limit identification and response
- Lack of prevention and early intervention services
- Systems and services have not kept up with demographic shifts
 - Families living in poverty in mid- and East County are under-served
 - Communities of color and immigrant communities are under-served

Location of Resources vs. Population

Parent Resources



Focus on Training & Education



Intervention Specialists

Professional development for specialists and the Community Health Worker network
Cross-disciplinary training and practice forums

Programs for Children and Youth

Professional development for adults in educational and recreational programs
Collaborate with Youth Development Intermediary

Parents and Families

Education on the impact of violence on children,
identifying affected children, community resources, & effective interventions

Community

Promotion of public awareness
Youth-led initiatives addressing bullying and dating violence

Questions?

Defending Childhood Initiative

Contact Information

- Annie Neal, Director
Domestic Violence Coordination Office
 - annie.neal@multco.us
 - 503-988-4113
- Rita Moore, Project Coordinator
 - rita.moore@multco.us
 - 503-988-4995