

March 31, 2016

Board of Commissioners
Clackamas County

Presentation of
April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Purpose/Outcomes	Update the Board about the nationally recognized Child Abuse Prevention Month and highlight the collaborative work that is being done by state, county and local non-profits to prevent and address child abuse.
Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact	No fiscal impact to the County – the intent is to educate and invite the community to take action in their communities to make them healthy places where children grow and thrive.
Funding Source	N/A
Duration	The month of April is dedicated to Child Abuse, but programming occurs throughout the year.
Previous Board Action	The Board has been very supportive of promoting Child Abuse Prevention Month and highlighting programs that serve these vulnerable children.
Strategic Plan Alignment	Individuals and families in need are healthy and safe Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities
Contact Person	Rodney A. Cook, Director for Children, Youth & Families Division 503-650-5677
Contract No.	N/A

BACKGROUND:

Preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility that depends on involvement from people throughout the community. According to the most recent Department of Human Services Child Welfare data statistics for Clackamas County (2014):

- There were a total of 2052 assessments of child abuse/neglect in Clackamas County, with a total of 458 founded cases,
- A total of 706 children under the age of 18 years were in foster care at least once during the year.

Whether suffering neglect, harsh physical punishment, threat of harm, sexual abuse, or psychological trauma, the children who survive carry the scars of their abuse for the rest of their lives. Research shows that child abuse and neglect not only directly harm children, but also increase the likelihood of risky behaviors as they get older, including criminal activities, substance abuse, academic failure, and health problems such as heart disease and obesity.

We know that child maltreatment most often occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, or knowledge of how to cope. The majority of child abuse cases stemmed from situations and conditions that are preventable when community programs and systems are engaged and supportive. Services that promote parental knowledge and support of early childhood

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development, and provide maternal mental health, for instance, are more likely to foster nurturing families and healthy children.

We would like to recognize effective child abuse prevention programs in our community that have partnered together to create a continuum of services that support the county's goal of ensuring safe, healthy and secure communities. Successful programs and initiatives in Clackamas County include:

- Clackamas Branch – Oregon Child Protective Services
- Healthy Families of Clackamas County, which is a home visitation program for high risk new parents.
- The Children's Center, which conducts medical assessments of children who are suspected victims of abuse or neglect.
- Family Stepping Stones Relief Nursery
- The Clackamas Parenting Together resource web-page.
- Safety First – Supervised Visitation
- A Safe Place Family Justice Center
- The Clackamas County Multi-Disciplinary Team which includes representatives from the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Victim Assistance, Oregon Department of Human Services and other County agencies.
- Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Summit.
- Children of Incarcerated Parents program

We call upon all Clackamas County citizens to observe Child Abuse Prevention month and every day and commit to working together to keep our children safe, and take action in our own communities to make them healthy places for children to grow and thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Swift, Director
Health, Housing & Human Services