



**Cheryl Bledsoe, Director
Department of Communications**

Communications and Emergency Operations Center
2200 Kaen Road, Oregon City, OR 97045

STAFF REPORT

April 15, 2021

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Proclamation of April 11 - 17, 2021, as
National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week in Clackamas County

Purpose/Outcomes	Recognize the important work that 9-1-1 call-takers, dispatchers, technicians, trainers, supervisors and administrators do to provide 9-1-1 services to the residents of Clackamas County.
Fiscal Impact	No fiscal impact
Contact Person	Cheryl Bledsoe (971) 284-3091

BACKGROUND:

Across the nation in times of intense personal crisis and community-wide disasters, the first access point for those seeking all types of emergency services is 9-1-1. The local and county emergency communications centers that receive these calls have emerged as the first and single point of contact for persons seeking immediate relief during an emergency.

Clackamas 911 Communications, known as C-COM, is celebrating the second full week of April (April 11-17, 2019) as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. This week, sponsored by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and celebrated annually since 1981, honors the thousands of men and women who respond to emergency calls, dispatch public safety responders, and render life-saving assistance to the residents of Clackamas County.

This past year, C-COM answered 283,161 9-1-1 calls and non-emergency calls for residents in our jurisdiction and navigated text response for 372 separate incidents. 2020 was a year like no other in emergency services. Our employees worked tirelessly through a pandemic, evacuated our facility for 14 days due to local wildfires and made our way to work in an epic ice storm, but at all times, provided continuous call-taking and emergency dispatching to our community.

We presently have 27 certified dispatchers, 5 certified call-takers, 5 trainees, 5 supervisors, 3 training & quality improvement coordinators, 4 technicians and 3.75 administrative staff who staff and support C-COM.

RECOMMENDATION:

C-COM Staff recommends approval of the attached proclamation to honor and celebrate the important work that public safety telecommunicators do every day to support public safety responders and save the lives of residents in our area.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Bledsoe,
C-COM Director

Proclaiming April 11-17th, 2021 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Clackamas County

WHEREAS emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire or emergency medical services within Clackamas County; and,

WHEREAS when an emergency occurs the prompt response of police officers, firefighters and paramedics is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and,

WHEREAS the safety of our police officers and firefighters is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from residents who call Clackamas County 9-1-1 Communications; and,

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our residents have with emergency services; and,

WHEREAS Public Safety Telecommunicators of Clackamas County provide life-saving information, deliver babies and provide CPR instructions to bystanders who may have never been trained, and,

WHEREAS each employee has exhibited compassion, understanding and professionalism during the performance of their job, and

WHEREAS, this past year provided significant challenges as 911 employees navigated response through a global pandemic, local wildfires that both threatened their homes personally and caused 911 operations to evacuate to alternate locations and stayed on-site through a significant ice storm & power outages;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED, that the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners declares April 11-17, 2021, to be National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Clackamas County, in honor of the first responders whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and residents safe.

We encourage all residents to join us in celebrating the commitment and courage that 9-1-1 call-takers, dispatchers and support staff exhibit daily in their service to the residents of Clackamas County.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2021.

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tootie Smith
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Commissioner

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April 15, 2021

Board of Commissioners
Clackamas County

Presentation
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Purpose/Outcomes	High level 10-15 Presentation and briefing about the status of child abuse and neglect in the County, state and nationally. This includes the effects of COVID-19 on the problem and ideas for action.
Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact	No fiscal impact to the County – the intent is to educate and increase awareness of the issue and to encourage communities to take action to prevent child abuse and neglect.
Funding Source	N/A
Duration	April is dedicated to Child Abuse Prevention, but programming occurs throughout the year.
Previous Board Action	The Board has supported and promoted Child Abuse Prevention Month and highlighted programs that serve these vulnerable children.
Strategic Plan Alignment	Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities
Contact Person	Dr. Adam Freer, Director Children, Youth & Families Division 971-533-4929
Contract No.	N/A

BACKGROUND:

Preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility that depends on involvement from citizens throughout the community. According to the Child Welfare Data Book 2019 prepared by Oregon Department of Human Services:

- In Oregon, there were **13,674** confirmed child victims of abuse/neglect in 2019.
- There were **543** child victims of abuse/neglect in Clackamas County in 2019.
 - ❖ 80% - Threat of Harm
 - ❖ 73% - Involved Neglect
 - ❖ 17% - Physical Abuse
 - ❖ 13% - Sexual Abuse
 - ❖ 4% - Mental Injury
 - ❖ Many children suffer more than one type of abuse

Unfortunately, the child abuse rate in Clackamas County has been increasing over the past three years, and we must come together to strengthen our efforts to reduce the incidence of child abuse. We know that stay-at-home orders and health and safety recommendations related to the pandemic have changed life this past year for all of our community, deeply impacting families and children. While we won't know the true impact for some time, many experts believe this has created a spike in child abuse. This is due

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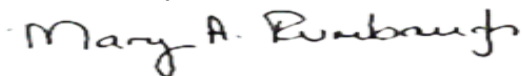
to a combination of increased family stressors, increased exposure to abusers and increased social isolation. Reports of child abuse have actually decreased during the pandemic, but this is attributed to decreased contact with mandatory reporters, such as teachers. However, we do not yet know truly know what the impact of the pandemic on child abuse in our community will be.¹ Continuing to support and recognize our important work in preventing child abuse is a priority now more than it ever has been before.

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 in addition to the direct damage caused to children, child abuse/neglect can impact their health and well-being in the long term by increasing risk behaviors such as substance abuse, academic failure, and criminal activity, and can result in serious health problems such as heart disease and obesity.

RECOMMENDATION:

We respectfully request that the Board recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and we call upon all Clackamas County citizens to observe Child Abuse Prevention month by recognizing those who work every day to keep our children safe, and by taking action to make our communities healthy places for children to grow and thrive.

Respectfully submitted,



For Rod Cook
Rodney A. Cook, Interim Director
Health, Housing & Human Services

¹ Firth, S. & Hlavinka, E. (Dec 23, 2020). What has COVID-19 Done to Child Welfare? MedPage Today. Retrieved 3.30.21 from <https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/90394>.

Child Abuse Prevention Month



APRIL IS NATIONAL
CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH

April 15, 2021

***Children Family &
Community Connections
(CFCC) Division of H3S***

Dr. Adam Freer, Director
Chelsea Hamilton, Sr. Program
Planner

Clackamas County Facts

In Clackamas County for 2019 there were:

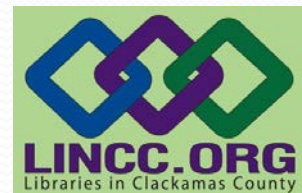
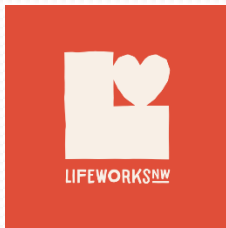
543 substantiated cases of child abuse/neglect
1 for each confirmed case of abuse/neglect last year



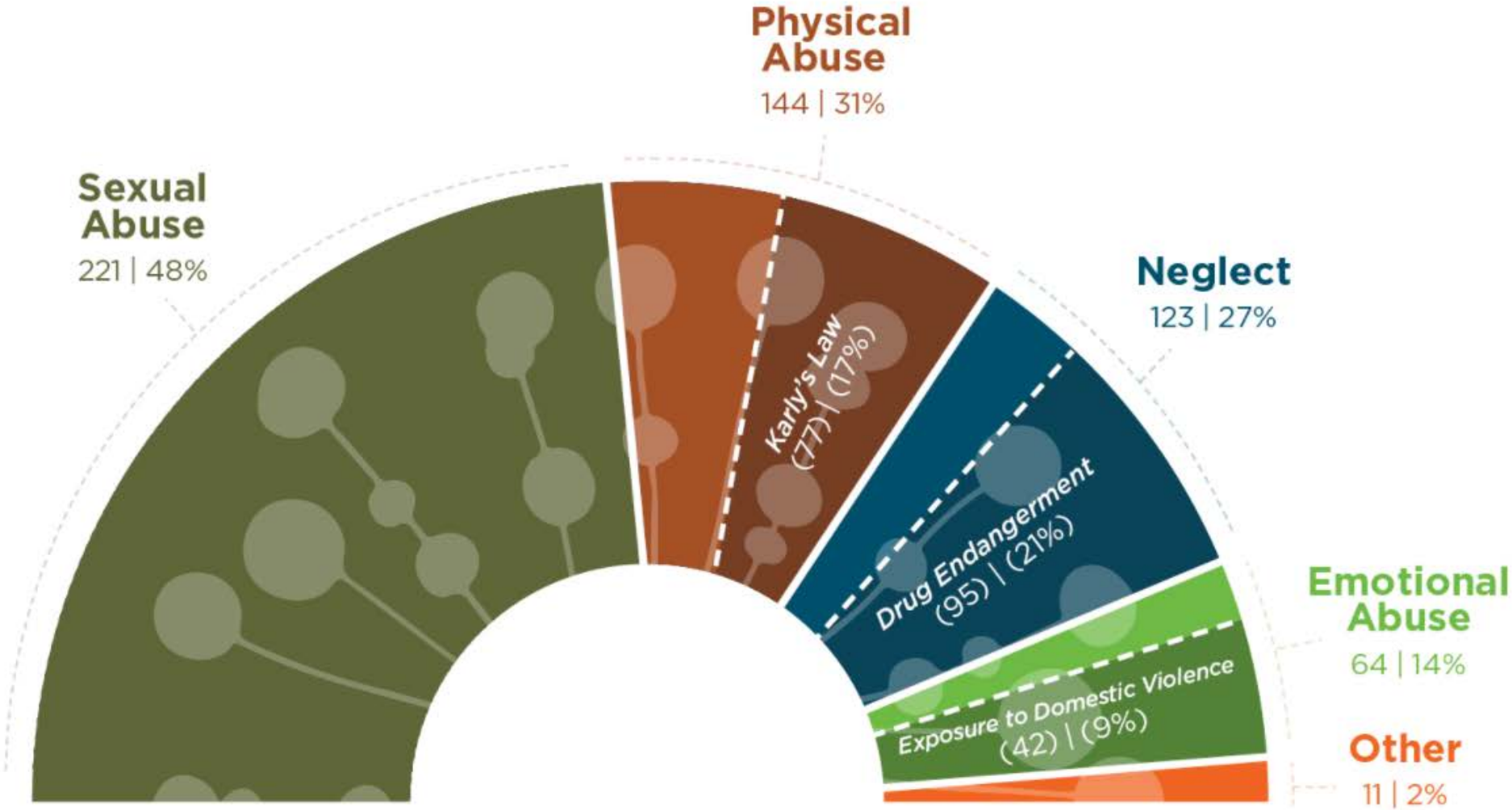
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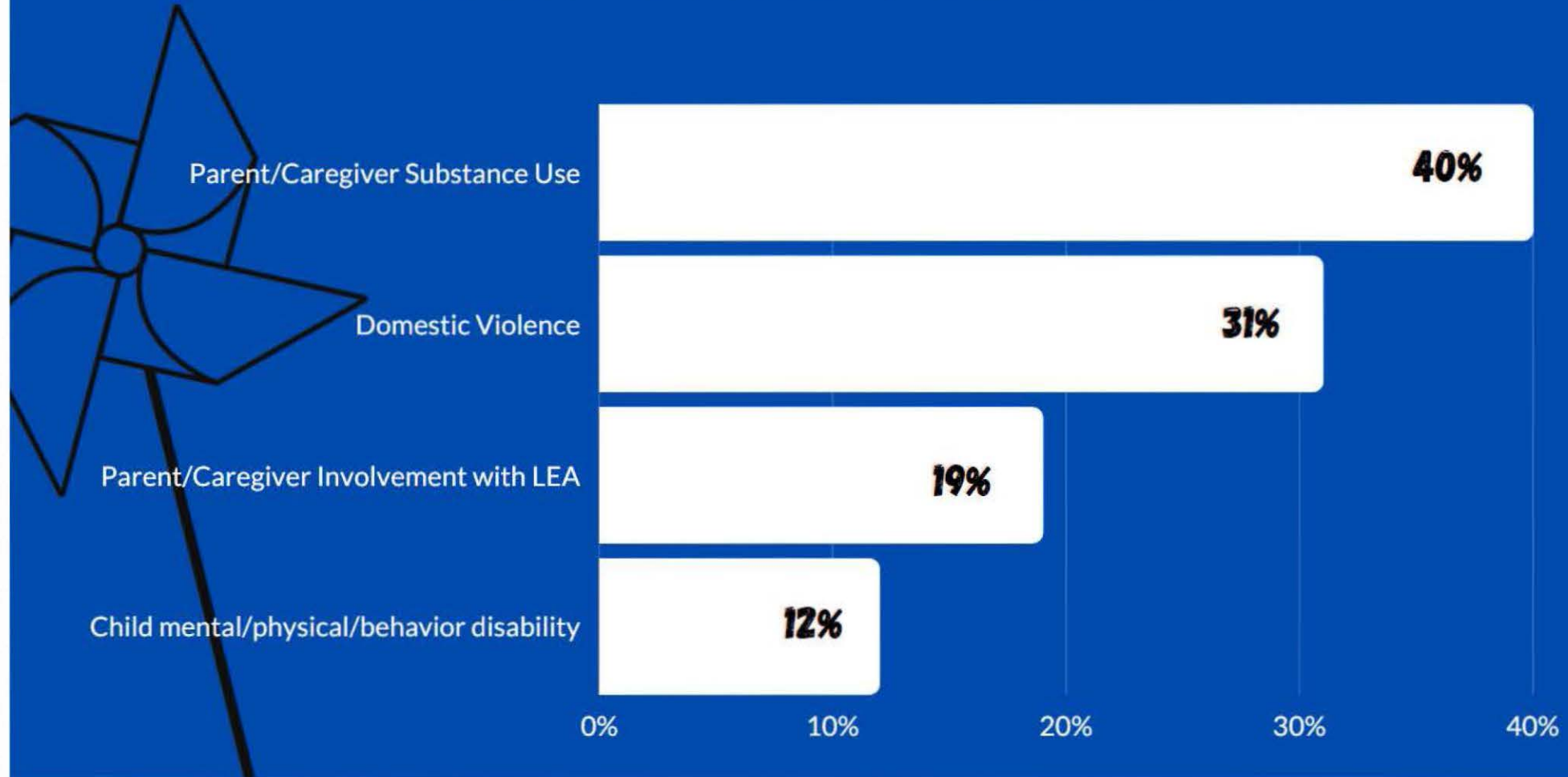
Clackamas County Prevention Programs



Reason for Referral to The Children's Center – FY18

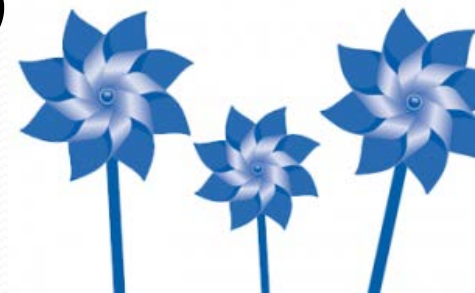


LEADING FAMILY STRESS FACTORS CONNECTED TO ABUSE AND NEGLECT



COVID-19 and Child Abuse and Neglect

- **Full impacts of pandemic still unclear - data not yet available**
- **Reports of abuse/neglect have generally decreased, however...**
- **Many experts believe instances are most likely increasing during pandemic shutdown due to:**
 - Increased family stressors (finances, sickness/death, social isolation, natural disasters, etc.)
 - Decreased social supports
 - Increased exposure to abusers
 - Decreased visibility and exposure to mandatory reporters (such as teachers)



Looking To The Future

- **Key Resource:** *Prevention Resource Guide 2021-22*, U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services
- Major shift in approach to child welfare towards prevention (away from removal)
 - Federal **Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018**.
 - Oregon submitted a 5-year plan in Feb 2021 – under review
- Evidence has shown that prevention of child abuse relies on several core **protective factors**:
 - Enhanced social connections
 - Quality child care
 - Stable employment at a livable wage
 - Access to health insurance
 - Services that reduce stress



Learn More & Get Involved!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month



JOIN US

PLANTING PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

April 17th from 11 am - 1 pm

Sandy Public Library - 38980 Proctor Blvd Sandy *

Estacada Public Library - 825 NW Wade St Estacada

Canby Public Library - 220 NE 2nd Ave, Canby *

Molalla Elementary School - 910 Toliver Rd, Molalla

Sandy/Canby walk-up only * Molalla/Estacada walk up and drive-thru

Bring your family and join us for children's activities, raffle giveaways, goodie bags, resources and get your very own pinwheel to plant for Child Abuse Prevention month! Todos Juntos staff will be outside at each of the locations with activities and resources. Come check us out and enjoy a Saturday with us!



THURSDAY APRIL 15TH @ 6:30PM

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

Parents and caregivers are invited to our free virtual workshop. Come learn guidelines for healthy touch and safe, respectful ways to interact with children at home and in youth serving settings.

www.ClackamasParenting.com

