

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Staff Presentation Worksheet

Presentation Date: December 20, 2011 Time: 11:00 am Length: 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Data

Department: H3S

Presenters: Cindy Becker

POLICY QUESTION

Whether the Board of County Commissioners should refer a measure to Clackamas County voters that would increase funding for prevention, shelter and support services to protect vulnerable people from abuse and family violence.

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

In August, 2011, the Board approved Resolution No. 2011-65: "In the Matter of Supporting, Investing, and Prevention Services to Protect and Shelter Vulnerable People from Abuse and Family Violence".

Two actions were articulated in the resolution. The first one created a pool of \$500,000 to support grants to community groups to provide prevention, shelter, and medical assessments to help people escape from domestic violence and child abuse. A public process was conducted in September/October, 2011 and awards were made (discussed in a prior study session.)

The second action of the resolution – which is the subject of this study session - directed staff to identify the most urgent unmet funding needs and to develop a funding package that protects vulnerable people from domestic violence and child abuse.

Data:

The attached data was derived from a variety of sources including: the state Department of Human Services, Clackamas Women's Services, District Attorney's Office, H3S/Children, Youth & Families, CCOM, and the Children's Center.

Indicators:

In almost all areas, the data for both domestic violence and child abuse shows an upward trend of incidences/needs which is consistent with what's happening in other areas of the state. The increases in the TANF, SNAP

(aka food stamps) programs combined with increased number of homeless children mirror this trend. It is important to recognize that while domestic violence and child abuse cuts across all income levels, those living in poverty have a higher risk for abuse due to significant financial stresses, reduced options, and exposure to risky behaviors such as drug and alcohol abuse.

Services

The list of services included in the attachment reflects the continued need for prevention, shelter, and support services that outstrip the resources available. (NOTE: The list does not include the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Behavioral Health services, or services contracted through the state Department of Human Services as the focus of this report is on the services and supports needed for at-risk populations in addition to these critical systems.)

Based on the data and review of best practices, the significant unmet needs can be categorized as follows:

- Housing including emergency shelter, transitional shelter, and assistance with rent/utilities.
- Victim Advocates and Case Managers
- Family support and skill building, especially for high risk families
- Early intervention services for children affected by family violence
- Timely assessments with "warm hand-off" referrals
- Community awareness including outreach and education, with emphasis on targeted populations
- Education/awareness focused on middle and high school students

Funding

Although the attached list includes cost information, there is an almost unlimited combination of services that could be developed. Outside of the housing assistance, the majority of the services will focus on expanded staff and related operating costs. For example – additional advocacy staff for CWS cost in the range of \$55-65,000 and, depending on their job, can serve up to 500 people annually as a legal advocate or up to 70 people as a rural advocate. An additional teacher in the Relief Nursery costs from \$82-92,000 and can serve 60-80 children.

As such, staff recommends that the Board, if it chooses to proceed, determine the amount of funding that can be generated through a levy and direct staff to develop corresponding service packages based on realistic caseloads and community capacity for growth.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Should the BCC refer a measure to the voters that would increase funding for prevention, shelter and support services for vulnerable people at risk of, or impacted, by domestic violence or child abuse?
2. If the answer to #1 is yes, what election (month/year) should the referral be made?
3. If the answer to #1 is yes, what should the amount be?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

- Q1. Approve moving forward with a measure
Don't approve moving forward
- Q2. Refer the measure for the May, 2012 election
Refer the measure for the November, 2012 election
- Q3. Determine amount of the assessment at today's meeting
Postpone determination until early 2012 so more input, information and analyses can be completed

RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this study session is to bring information to the Board so they can determine the course of action they want to take relative the August, 2011 resolution than staff making recommendations. Staff does recommend; however, that the Board decides how they want to proceed on the questions cited above at this study session to direct subsequent staff activities.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____
Department Director/Head Approval _____
County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Cindy Becker @ 503-650-5697