

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

PROCLAMATION NO. 2023-025

Proclaiming the Month of April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Child abuse and neglect is a serious public health and safety problem that impacts all of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone.
- B. According to the most recently published Oregon Department of Human Services Child Welfare Data Book, there were 78,775 reports of child abuse and neglect in Oregon in 2021. In Multnomah County, there were 12,085 reports of abuse and neglect. The leading family stress factor when child abuse was present was substance abuse by a parent/caregiver. The next most common stress factor was domestic violence.
- C. Child abuse and neglect has long-term, physical, psychological, emotional and social effects that have lasting consequences for survivors of abuse into adulthood.
- D. Due to the ongoing global pandemic over the past three years, the challenges to protecting children continue to be more acutely felt.
- E. All of us in Multnomah County must work together to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment.
- F. We must all recognize the signs of child maltreatment and take appropriate steps to safeguard children by reporting concerns and connecting families with the help they may need.
- G. Effective child abuse prevention and intervention efforts succeed because of coordinated partnerships between government, child welfare, health, schools, law enforcement and community organizations.
- H. That resource and adoptive parents, child protective workers, faith leaders, community mentors, medicine, mental health, teachers, and law enforcement officials, all have a role in protecting and supporting children who have been tragically abused or neglected.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaims:

1. The Month of April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Multnomah County.
2. The Board of County Commissioners call upon our community to support the effort to prevent child abuse, protect children and strengthen families.

ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2023.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

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

By:

Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY: Multnomah County Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team