

**Memorandum of Understanding
Family Violence Coordinating Council Membership**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to

- To create a shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of agencies that are applying for or are currently members of the Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council (Council) and
- To ensure that member agencies participate actively in the work of the council so as to promote its vision, mission and values.

The Council was founded in 1987 to provide a multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction forum to increase the effectiveness of intervention and prevention of domestic violence in Multnomah County. The Council works to assure the safety, well-being, and stability of all members of families, especially women and children, in Multnomah County, by ending family violence. The Council focuses primarily on violence against former or current adult intimate partners.

The Council envisions a coordinated community response in which the victim, wherever she or he turns, is met with non-judgmental support, needed services, and safety. At the same time, wherever the perpetrator turns, he or she will be met with a strong statement that he or she must change the abusive behavior and make restitution to the victim. This coordinated community response includes the domestic violence response system and community and social systems. Health care, faith-based organizations, civic and social supports, employers, social services, families and neighbors can all contribute to the goal of ending domestic violence.

As a member of the Council, _____ agrees to the following:
Agency Name

1. Support for the Vision, Mission and Values listed below and in the Operating Principles of the Council

Vision: To assure the safety, well-being, and stability of all members of families, especially women and children, in Multnomah County, by eliminating family violence.

Mission: To promote public policies and facilitate and coordinate public and private efforts to prevent, respond to, and end family violence in Multnomah County

Values: The work of the Council will be guided by Council members' shared commitment to:

- The right of all people to live free from family violence or the threat of violence;
- Recognition of the public responsibility of government to prevent family violence, to enact and enforce laws, and to promote and enact policies and practices that protect the victims of violence;
- Recognition that cooperation and coordination among public and private resources is essential to effectively address family violence;
- Recognition that efforts to address the issues of family violence must be culturally appropriate, based in respect for all individuals and desire to build a rich multicultural community;

- Promoting victim safety and holding batterers accountable for violence;
- The need to change social structures, including the status of women, which allow family violence to occur;
- Preventing family violence by changing social attitudes and cultural norms to value relationships which ensure respect and dignity for all members of society; and
- Recognition that all forms of oppression create an environment that promotes and encourages family violence.

2. Support the Council in its roles to:

- Facilitate and coordinate public and private response to family violence;
- Advise policy makers within local government (cities and county), regional government (Metro), court systems, law enforcement and corrections, and other public entities about policy issues and resource needs relating to family violence;
- Map unmet needs and create coordinated responses to address them;
- Develop strategies to close the gap between needs and available resources;
- Prepare and disseminate reports regarding family violence policy issues;
- Bring key players in public and private efforts to end family violence together to build productive relationships and to provide opportunities to strengthen and improve the community response to domestic violence;
- Provide opportunities for exchange of information and training;
- Address problem[s] areas in the coordinated effort to reduce family violence and advocate for system improvements; and
- Promote awareness of family violence and effective intervention and/or prevention strategies

3. In order to fully participate in Council work, _____ agrees to:
Agency Name

- Disseminate information from the Council, obtained at meetings or through written materials, to other employees, volunteers or clients of the agency.
- Identify and make available to other member agency staff a contact person and an alternate to answer questions or assist in one-on-one problem-solving.
- Participate in Council activities and projects by regularly attending meetings, participating in committees, reviewing documents, and assisting in problem-solving at system level.
- Assign a person to attend meetings who has a significant level of responsibility and influence within the organization.
- Demonstrate a willingness to discuss and solve, in a productive manner, problems identified by the Council or its members regarding their own agency.
- Bring issues related to effective intervention and prevention of domestic violence to the Council for discussion and problem-solving.

This memorandum of understanding is effective upon signing for current members or is effective upon vote of membership for new members.

Approval

We, the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU.

Member Agency Representative Name

Date

Title

Agency

Executive Committee Chair/Co-Chair

Date

Multnomah County Family Violence Coordinating Council