

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;
- The need for social change and recognition of groups of people in our community who are disproportionately affected by violence, racism, and oppression on individual, institutional and systemic levels;
- Culturally responsive efforts to address the issues of family violence and support the growth of a culturally diverse community.
- 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 victims and survivors of violence;
- Recognition that cooperation and coordination among public and private resources is essential to effectively address family violence;

- Promoting victim and survivor safety and holding batterers accountable for violence;
- Acknowledging the role oppression plays in social institutions and structures, including gender bias, racism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, cissexism, and religious oppression (and the intersections), which enables and increases the likelihood of family violence to occur.
- Preventing family violence by intervening and working to change social attitudes and cultural norms rooted in the oppression of marginalized people and communities in an attempt to build relationships which ensure affirmation, dignity, and liberation for all members of society. On-going education that recognizes that we all have a role in oppression and liberation and that all forms of oppression create an environment which promotes and encourages family violence.

2. **Support the Council in the roles defined in four broad areas below:**

System Coordination

- Facilitate the coordination of public information gathering and sharing through the council's membership, meetings and events
- Provide and maintain membership opportunities for networking and multi-disciplinary activities to solve problems and share approaches to address domestic and sexual violence
- Identify unmet needs and implement strategies to close the gaps within available resources

Policy and Leadership – Practices and Standards

- Advise policy makers within local government, regional government, law enforcement and corrections about policy issues and resource needs relating to domestic and sexual violence
- Identify, examine and work to correct institutional policies that may harm survivors of domestic and sexual violence
- Identify promising practices to improve current services and responses to survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and develop appropriate standards
- Identify and implement strategies to increase access to social, medical, and legal supports for marginalized and underserved communities

Education and Training

- Provide opportunities for the free-flow exchange of information and provide training among members
- Establish sub-committees to address specific topics to increase awareness within the council and the greater public
- Identify and implement system and community training opportunities to educate partners to the effects of domestic and sexual violence and promote greater awareness

Prevention

- Develop public service announcements to educate community and bring awareness to domestic and sexual violence
- Engage community through media sources such as newspaper, television and social media

