

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 family violence.

Family violence involves behavior that is violent, threatening, coercive, or controlling which causes the victim to feel fear for their safety or well-being. While physical violence is most easily recognized, family violence includes several other forms of abuse (both threatened and perpetrated) such as exertion of power and control, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, damage to property, financial abuse, stalking, pet abuse, neglect, terrorism and other forms of sexual violence. Often it is a systematic pattern of abuse that escalates over time in frequency and severity; family violence may be a single incident ranging in intensity from harassment to homicide. The Council recognizes that women, gender and sexual minorities, marginalized communities, people who trade sex, and children/young adults are all groups at the highest risk for experiencing violence. In addition, the impacts of this violence on the community are included in the scope of the Council's work.

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 ensure the safety, well-being, and stability of all families in Multnomah County by advancing intersectional approaches that link family and community safety through prevention, healing, and systemic equity.

Mission: To advance coordinated efforts that strengthen family and community safety, recognizing that domestic, sexual, and community violence are interrelated and require culturally responsive, survivor-centered solutions.

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

- The inherent right of all people to live free from family violence and the threat of violence.
- The urgent need for social change and recognition of communities disproportionately impacted by violence, racism, and oppression at individual, institutional, and systemic levels.
- Commitment to culturally responsive approaches that address family violence and strengthen a diverse, inclusive community.

- Recognition of the public responsibility of the government to prevent family violence, enact and enforce laws addressing family violence, and promote policies and practices that safeguard victims and survivors.
- Understanding that effective responses to family violence require cooperation and coordination among public and private resources.
- Promotion of victim and survivor safety.
- Uplifting survivor voice and providing space for survivor leadership and involvement in coordinated efforts to end the cycle of family violence.
- Ensuring effective accountability for those who commit violence.
- Acknowledgment of the ways oppression operates within social institutions and structures—including gender bias, racism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, cissexism, and religious oppression—and how these intersect to enable and perpetuate family violence.
- Commitment to preventing family violence by challenging social attitudes and cultural norms rooted in oppression, and by fostering relationships grounded in affirmation, dignity, and liberation for all.
- Dedication to ongoing education that both recognizes our shared responsibility in oppression and liberation, and affirms that all forms of oppression create environments that sustain 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
- Participate in evaluation and assessment of batterer's intervention programs and strategies

- Partner with educational service providers to educate our youth about safe relationships and domestic and sexual violence

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 this agency.
- Identify and make available to other member agency staff a contact person and an alternative to answer questions or assist in one-on-one problem-solving.
- Participate in Council activities and projects by attending at least 6 general meetings per year, participating in committees, reviewing documents, and assisting in problem-solving at system level.
- Assign the “right person” to meetings – has influence within the organization.
- Demonstrate a willingness to discuss and solve problems brought to the Council or by other Council members about their agency.
- Bring issues related to effective intervention and prevention of domestic and sexual 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