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#### **AGENDA COVER MEMO**

AGENDA DATE: October 1, 2003

TO: Board of County Commissioners

**DEPARTMENT:** Children & Families

PRESENTED BY: Alicia Hays

AGENDA TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING

OCTOBER 2003 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

#### I. MOTION

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2003 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

AWARENESS MONTH

#### II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

Domestic Violence organizations and their supporters across the nation recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM). The intent of DVAM activities is to raise awareness of domestic violence and the importance of a coordinated response. Such a response requires involvement by local government, domestic violence service providers, the criminal and civil justice systems, batterer intervention providers, social service providers, and community members.

#### III. DISCUSSION

#### A. <u>Background</u>/Analysis

Domestic violence affects families throughout Lane County, cutting across all age, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. In a random phone survey of Lane County residents conducted in 2001, 29% of respondents indicated they had been victims of domestic violence at some point in their lives —of those, 13% had been victims of domestic violence within the past year. As reported in the 1998 Oregon Domestic Violence Needs Assessment: A Report to the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence, 25% of Oregon's children are living in households where there is domestic violence; the majority of these children witness the violence.

A promising approach to reducing the rate of domestic violence is a coordinated community response. Our local coordinated response began in 1993, with the founding of the Domestic Violence Council. Participants represent key Lane County organizations that work with domestic violence

survivors, their children, and perpetrators of the violence. The Council has taken the lead in raising community awareness through a variety of collaborative training, educational, and media projects. These include the development of a uniform law enforcement reporting form, pre-trial monitoring of domestic violence offenders, the development and use of domestic violence screening protocols by health care providers, and enhanced collaboration among agencies that monitor domestic violence offenders.

The community is invited to attend DVAM events on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Wednesday will feature a special presentation of the Silent Witness Exhibit; Thursday's events focus on "What YOU Can Do".

#### B. <u>Alternatives/Options</u>

- 1. To declare October 2003 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Lane County.
- 2. Not to declare October 2003 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

#### C. Recommendation

Option 1, to declare October 2003 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Lane County.

#### D. Timing

Upon Board approval, October 2003 will be declared Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Lane County.

#### IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation will be completed as stated above in "Timing."

#### V. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order DVAM flyer

#### THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

| RESOLUTION: | ) IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING OCTOBER |
|-------------|--|
|             | ) 2003 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS  |
|             | ) MONTH                                |

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects families throughout our county, cutting across all age, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 approximately 29% of Lane County residents reported they have been victims of domestic violence in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, approximately 25% of Oregon's children lived in homes where domestic violence occurred; and

WHEREAS, most of the time, survivors first seek help from their friends and immediate family members; and

WHEREAS, one promising approach to reducing domestic violence is the establishment of a coordinated community response. On Thursday October 2<sup>nd</sup>, domestic violence/sexual assault providers fair offers an opportunity to learn more about services and options available from local service providers; and

WHEREAS, by continuing to increase knowledge about domestic violence and effective interventions, by supporting the needs of domestic violence survivors and their children, and by increasing the community's capacity to hold batterers accountable, together we can reduce domestic violence in Lane County; now therefore it is hereby

RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Lane County Board of County Commissioners hereby proclaim the month of October 2003 as **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**, and urges all lane County citizens to work together to reduce domestic violence through education, by participating in DVAM activities, and by encouraging supportive responses to survivors of domestic violence within their workplaces, neighborhoods, and organizations.

APPROVED this 1st day of October, 2003.

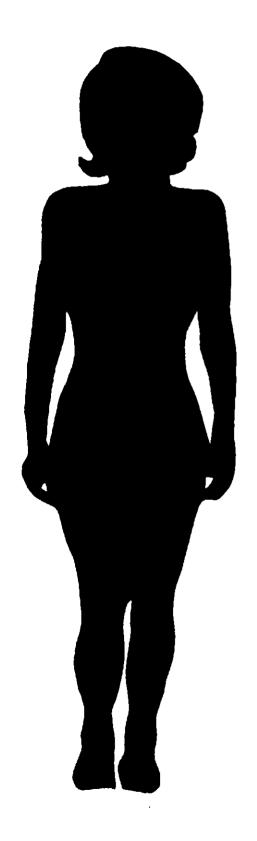
Peter Sorenson, Chair BOARD OF LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_lane county

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



### Wednesday, October 1st

## Silent Witness Exhibit

4:30-5:30 pm

Presentation, candlelighting, reception

- Remember women and children who have died at the hands of batterers.
- Honor the courage of those who have left violent relationships, and
- Carry a message of hope and support for those who are still living with domestic violence.

## Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

# **Domestic Violence – What You Can Do!**

5:30-7:30 pm

What can you do if your friend, co-worker or family member discloses abuse? Come and gather tools that you can use. Refreshments will be provided!

## **Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Providers Fair**

7:30-8:30 pm

Talk to local providers about services and options if you or someone you know needs help.

All Events Are Held At The First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street – Behind the Old Public Library.

Sponsored by
The First United Methodist Church
The Lane County Domestic Violence Council
The Eugene Human Rights Commission
Womenspace

Call 485-8232 for more information or to register; registration is not required Everyone is welcome!