

March 30th, 2015

Dear Co-Chairs Shields and Williamson, and Members of the Public Safety Subcommittee,

I started in this work in 1982 when the Women's Crisis Support Team (WCST) was a grassroots organization. Now, as Executive Director I am charged with ensuring our agency has the funding and staffing to provide the necessary services to survivors of domestic or sexual violence.

Here in Josephine County (a rural area), emergency services to survivors of domestic or sexual violence are vital especially when our Public Safety programs are diminished due to decreasing O & C funding. Safety planning with a victim is a priority. Our local law enforcement agencies call upon our advocates to respond and provide services 24/7 at the hospital or on scene.

ODSVS funding is vital to WCST in providing core operations of our intervention and safe shelter programs. In 2014 our advocates answered 3,592 crisis calls, responded to LEA or the hospital 148 times and sheltered 90 women and 62 children. Our advocates helped victims navigate the civil court with assisting with 341 restraining orders and contested hearings and criminal court systems.

Please help make sure these vital programs get funded at sufficient levels!

Thanks so much!!

Sincerely,

Krisanna Albrecht

--

Please note my new e-mail address below.

Krisanna Albrecht, Executive Director

Women's Crisis Support Team

541-476-3877

krisanna.wcst@gmail.com