



**Rick Puente**  
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**WE EXPECT EXCELLENCE**  **WE INNOVATE**  **WE EMBRACE EQUITY**  **WE COLLABORATE** 

May 6, 2021

To: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee

From: Rick Puente, Director/Chief of Police, Beaverton School District Public Safety Department

RE: **Support for Washington County Family Peace Center project (SB 5534)**

Greetings Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

I hope this letter finds you all well as we continue to work collaboratively in the service of our communities within Washington County. I am writing to express strong support for the Washington County Family Peace Center project.

This project seeks to establish a 20,000+ square foot facility for Washington County children and families impacted by child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence. This facility would provide medical treatment, therapy, family support and prevention services to address trauma in a collaborative, proactive way while promoting the health and safety of our community.

Co-locating services for both child abuse and domestic violence addresses an urgent need in Washington County. We know that child abuse and domestic violence are widespread and cause long-lasting social and economic harm, not only to the victims individually, but the community. Additionally, while this trauma impacts everyone it can often have a disproportionate impact on those who are financially vulnerable or historically marginalized. COVID-19 has exacerbated these challenges as incidents of abuse have increased, while access to help and resources has decreased.

A Washington County Family Peace Center follows a national model and will be the first co-located center of this type for child abuse and domestic violence in Oregon.

I would urge your support for the Washington County Family Peace Center project. This investment in the most vulnerable members of our community will not only promote the health and safety of children and families today, but the well-being of future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Puente, Director/Chief of Police  
Beaverton School District; Public Safety Department

**District Goal:** WE empower all students to achieve post-high school success.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.



May 7, 2021

To: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee

From: Katie Downie, RN, Pediatric Trauma Coordinator, Randall Children's Hospital

RE: Support for Washington County Family Peace Center project (SB 5534)

I am writing to express strong support for the Washington County Family Peace Center project. I am a resident of Washington County and I work as a nurse leader in Portland, specifically in the management of injured children needing hospitalization.

This project seeks to establish a 20,000+ square foot facility for Washington County children and families impacted by child abuse, neglect, and domestic violence. This facility would provide medical treatment, therapy, family support and prevention services to address trauma in a collaborative, proactive way while promoting the health and safety of our community.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Downie, RN, MSN  
Pediatric Trauma Coordinator  
Randall Children's Hospital

# Washington County Family Peace Center

## *A campaign for our community*

### THE VISION

- To establish a state-of-the art facility for Washington County children and families impacted by child abuse, neglect and domestic violence.
- To provide medical treatment, therapy, family support and prevention services to address trauma in a collaborative, proactive way while promoting the health and safety of our community.

### THE PROBLEM

#### Child abuse and domestic violence are widespread

- Approximately 1 in 7 children experience child abuse or neglect annually.<sup>i</sup>
- Approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience domestic violence during their lifetime.<sup>ii</sup>
- In 2019 Oregon had 89,451 reports of child abuse including 23 fatalities.<sup>iii</sup>

#### Child abuse impacts everyone, but disproportionately impacts BIPOC children

- Approximately 50% of the Washington County children treated for child abuse identify as non-white (top categories are Hispanic/Latino-30% and multi-racial/ethnic-36%).<sup>iv</sup>
- Approximately 66% of the Washington County children treated for child abuse are financially vulnerable (either no health insurance or on Medicaid).<sup>v</sup>

#### Harm caused by child abuse and domestic violence is long-lasting and expensive

- Childhood trauma (known as Adverse Childhood Experiences or "ACEs") increases the likelihood a person will experience mental health challenges, difficulty with school or employment, addiction, homelessness or criminal behavior.<sup>vi</sup>
- The cost of domestic violence over a victim's lifetime is estimated to be \$103,767 for women and \$23,414 for men.<sup>vii</sup>
- The cost of child abuse over a victim's lifetime is estimated to be \$830,928 per victim, including costs for healthcare, child welfare, criminal justice, special education and lost work productivity.<sup>viii</sup>

#### Washington County's child population is growing

- 139,603 children live in Washington County, representing approximately a quarter of the county's entire population.
- Washington County has the second largest child population in Oregon, with only 13,210 fewer children than Multnomah County
- Within the next two decades, Washington County is projected to have the largest child population in Oregon.

#### Washington County does not have a dedicated facility for child abuse victims

- The primary medical clinic serving Washington County child abuse victims, CARES Northwest, is located in Northeast Portland, requiring up to a two-hour roundtrip drive per appointment.<sup>ix</sup>

- CARES Northwest was established in 1987 primarily to serve Multnomah County children.
- Beginning in 2018 and reversing a 30-year trend, ***CARES Northwest now serves more Washington County children than Multnomah County children*** (treating approximately 800 Washington County children annually).

COVID-19 has harmed victims of child abuse and domestic violence and reduced reporting

- From March to December 2020 during the pandemic, 31% fewer Washington County children were seen at CARES Northwest.
- In 2020, reports of child abuse in Washington County dropped by over 50% as schools closed and teacher contact with children was limited.
- In 2020, domestic violence in Washington County increased along with stress and social isolation caused by the pandemic.

**THE SOLUTION**

- Community members and leaders have been working together over the past two years to co-locate CARES Northwest with the Family Justice Center in a single Washington County location called the "Washington County Family Peace Center," to serve children and families in our community.
- Key features:
  - o Expanded access to medical assessments and culturally appropriate trauma therapy for our children
  - o Collaboration and partnership with Washington County agencies, leaders, professionals, educators and our diverse community members
  - o 20,000+ square foot facility that brings together experts in medical treatment, trauma therapy, advocacy and prevention surrounding child abuse, neglect and domestic violence

**CARES NORTHWEST**

- CARES Northwest is the first children's advocacy center established in Oregon. Accredited by the National Children's Alliance, its mission is to stop child abuse and neglect through multidisciplinary prevention, medical evaluation, and ongoing treatment in partnership with the community.
- CARES Northwest features:
  - o Specialized medical treatment and evidence-based trauma therapy for all children, regardless of ability to pay
  - o Coordinated care in collaboration with community partners to minimize trauma
  - o Bilingual and culturally competent teams to meet the needs of the child and family
  - o Urgent medical appointments with child abuse experts to care for children within 24 hours
  - o 24/7 consultation by medical providers trained in child abuse medicine
  - o Child abuse prevention training in partnership with local school districts

## WASHINGTON COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER (FJC)

- The Family Justice Center of Washington County was established in 2018 to provide hope, safety and healing to families impacted by domestic violence.
- The FJC provides wrap-around services in one location to domestic violence victims in partnership with a diverse array of community groups, nonprofits and governmental agencies.
- The FJC features:
  - o Onsite resources for counseling, advocacy shelter options and remote court access restraining orders
  - o Family coaching and financial assistance
  - o Support finding housing, rental assistance and utility assistance
  - o Legal support and guidance through partnerships with legal aid organizations
  - o Onsite law enforcement support to assist with reporting crimes

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Visit [www.caresnw.org](http://www.caresnw.org) or [www.fjwc.org](http://www.fjwc.org) learn more about these organizations
- Contact:
  - o Judy Willey, Board President, Family Justice Center of Washington County (Judy@FJCWC.org)
  - o Rachel Petke, LCSW, CARES Northwest 503-276-9000 (RPetke@LHS.org)
  - o Kevin Barton, Washington County District Attorney 503-846-8671 (Kevin\_Barton@co.washington.or.us)

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/CHILDREN/CHILD-ABUSE/Documents/2019%20Child%20Welfare%20Data%20Book.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> According to data collected from CARES Northwest

<sup>v</sup> *Id.*

<sup>vi</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fviolenceprevention%2Fcestudy%2Ffastfact.html](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fviolenceprevention%2Fcestudy%2Ffastfact.html)

<sup>vii</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>

<sup>viii</sup> Peterson C, Florence C, Klevens J. The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States, 2015. *Child abuse & neglect*. 2018 Dec 1;86:178-83

<sup>ix</sup> In 2019 CARES Northwest began a part-time Washington County satellite pilot project at an urgent care clinic.



May 6, 2021

To: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee  
From: CARES Northwest Governing Board  
RE: Support for Washington County Family Peace Center project (SB 5534)

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah McGee, RNC, MSN  
Board Chair, on behalf of the CARES Northwest Governing Board

May 6, 2021

To: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee

From: Janie F Schutz  
Relationship Manager, Center for Policing Equity  
Chief of Police, Forest Grove Police Department, Retired

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janie F Schutz  
Center for Policing Equity