

ABBREVIATED CONSENT CALENDAR FORMAT

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Memorandum Date: May 4, 2011, 2011
Order Date: None, Presentation only on May 24, 2011

TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services
PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Presentation about **WEAVE LANE COUNTY**

I. MOTION

None, presentation only.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Anthony Biglan from Oregon Research Institute will present information about WEAVE Lane County. Weaving Environments and Actions that Value Everyone (WEAVE) is an innovative initiative in Lane County that works to educate the public about the importance and effectiveness of investing in prevention.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background / Analysis

Best practices that foster nurturing environments for children should be happening for every family, every school, and every neighborhood in Lane County. But the fabric of our community's efforts is frayed and patch-worked together. There are small efforts here and a little there to patch a hole, however, a common vision and coordination around prevention efforts are lacking.

The economist Ted Miller calculated the costs of problem behaviors that occurred in 1998 by all youth. (Problem behaviors included are antisocial behavior, binge drinking, drug and tobacco use, high school drop out and suicide attempts.) The costs included in his calculation were medical treatment, the use of government and community resources, loss of work, and decline in the quality of life. With the exception of smoking, he also included the costs that would continue beyond 1998 due to the problem behaviors. The total national cost of youth problem behaviors that occurred in 1998 was \$435 billion.

Assuming that Oregon has about the same rate of youth problem behaviors as the rest of the nation, we simply divide Oregon's share of the national costs based on the state's population to estimate the 1998 cost of problem behaviors in Oregon. The total is about

\$5.3 billion, or \$1,500 for every man, woman, and child in Oregon.

Aside from their dollar cost, these problems cost us so much in human suffering, and they take a tremendous toll on communities and society as well. These behaviors not only create problems in and of themselves, but they also make a huge contribution to other physical illnesses, such as heart disease and cancer.

Fortunately, there is now a great deal of consensus among scientists who study the development of these problems in children and youth about what can be done to improve children's well being. The Institute of Medicine's report on the prevention of mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders brought together a group of experts to objectively review the evidence and look at what can be done about these problems.

The good news is that there is a large number of prevention and treatment programs that have been experimentally evaluated and been shown to make a difference for kids and families. Furthermore, many evidence-based prevention programs save more money in the long run than they cost to deliver. For example, "effective school-based programs could save \$18 for every \$1 spent on these programs." (SAMHSA CSAP Substance Abuse Prevention Dollars and Cents: A Cost Benefit Analysis 2009.)

However, prevention is perennially underfunded and not consistently supported; the infrastructure to support effective delivery of prevention programs and efforts is very thin.

Because of this inadequate funding and lack of understanding and shared vision around prevention and best practices, we are not implementing best practices for our children and families.

WEAVE Lane County is a new initiative focusing on how we as a community can invest wisely in prevention: programs and practices effective in promoting healthier children and youth and preventing the development of serious and costly problems like drug abuse, depression and suicide, and criminal activity.

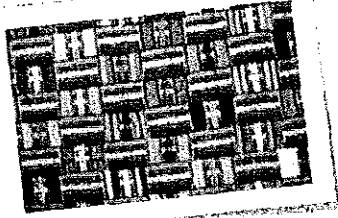
WEAVE Lane County's goals are to change the way we address risk factors that cause problem behaviors and to encourage parents, families, schools, businesses, and others to use evidence-based approaches to create a nurturing community for our children and youth. This effort is a collaboration between the Oregon Research Institute and Lane County Health & Human Services' Prevention Program.

B. Recommendation

The Board of County Commissioners becomes knowledgeable about **WEAVE Lane County** and the need to educate the public about the importance and effectiveness of investing in prevention.

III. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – WEAVE Lane County Information Sheet



WEAVE Lane County

Weaving Environments and Actions that Value Everyone

WEAVE Lane County is a new initiative focusing on how we as a community can invest wisely in prevention: that is, programs and practices effective in promoting healthier children and youth and preventing the development of serious and costly problems like drug abuse, depression and suicide, and criminal activity.

WEAVE Lane County's goals are to change the way we address risk factors that cause problem behaviors and to encourage parents, families, schools, businesses, and others to use evidence-based approaches to create a nurturing community for our children and youth.

This is a community-wide effort: everyone can play an important part and make a difference in the lives of our youth.

To schedule a presentation about WEAVE Lane County, please contact:

Sandy Moses, Mental Health Promotion Coordinator
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For more information, visit the Lane County Prevention Program website
www.preventionlane.org



Oregon Research Institute



Lane County Health & Human Services