

To Co-Chairs Sen. Johnson, Sen. Steiner Hayward, Rep. Rayfield and Members of the Committee:

As the Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Lincoln County, I request that you approve the \$16.6 million ARPA request submitted by the Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS) statewide network. The more than 20 CACs in Oregon provide specialized forensic intervention services, some of which are mandated by ORS chapter 418, as well as trauma therapy for child abuse victims. These services are trauma informed, critical for DHS caseworkers and law enforcement to help ensure the best possible outcome for these children AND it saves the investigating agency >\$1,000 per case when a CAC is involved (multiple national studies).

- Our CAC is asking for money to build a stand-alone structure adjacent to our current center. The purpose of this building is to provide specialized medical exams for children suspected of having been abused. This building will help us pool resources in Lincoln County in order to provide the much needed and required services. We have had a partnership with Samaritan Hospitals where a Samaritan employee was able to act as the medical director of our CAC and perform specialized exams at the center.

- That person moved away about 2 years ago and we have not been able to replace her. The year before she moved we saw approximately 300 children for paired forensic interviews and medical exams as well as medical exams for drug endangered children and statutorily required Karly's Law cases. The year following her departure we did no on-site medical exams and saw roughly 100 children at the center for forensic intervention services.

- One of the barriers to continuing the on-site partnership with Samaritan is not having a building that can meet their physical licensing requirements needed for a medical facility or clinic. This facility and partnership would increase the number of children we see by 50% because we could see a child in one building for a forensic interview and another child in the new building with a separate private entrance for a Karly's Law or Drug Endangerment medical exam.

- We also envision this structure being able to follow the model of Sarah's Place in Albany, which is the only program in Oregon to provide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) services outside of an Emergency Department setting. Currently, sexual assault victims in Lincoln County receive services at an Emergency Department IF a SANE is available, more often they go to Sarah's Place in Albany (a 3 hour round trip) or simply forego the exam altogether.

- I know that just as my ask would dramatically improve child safety and public safety in my community, I am only one of the many CACs that make up Oregon Child Abuse Solutions and whose funding requests would help make such significant impacts.

I'd like to thank the legislators who included this request in their priorities for ARPA funding and the many legislators who support their local CAC and our statewide Network.

Paul Schrader, PhD, Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Lincoln County