



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Human Services

Self-Sufficiency Program
4600 25th AVE, NE Suite 110
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 378-4098

February 15, 2024

Jayne Downing
Center for Hope & Safety
605 Center Street NE
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Ms. Downing,

This letter is to express support for the HOPE Plaza Project.

Daily, the Oregon Department of Human Services refers victims of domestic violence to the Center for Hope & Safety. We count on the services they provide over the crisis line, in their advocacy office and shelter, and in our offices throughout the county. We know their assistance is essential to meeting the needs of our clients who are victims of domestic violence. The addition of the housing, employment opportunities, and wrap-around case management service at HOPE Plaza, will be critical net step in making sure survivors are able to rebuild their lives free of violence.

Research conducted by Portland State University found that up to 50% of ODHS Self-Sufficiency customers and nearly one-third of our customers in the Child Welfare system have domestic violence as one of the issues they are facing. In recognition of this fact, the Oregon State Legislature set aside funding to place advocates from domestic violence advocacy programs in ODHS offices around the state. Five advocates from the Center for Hope & Safety currently serve the Salem and the Marion and Polk County offices of Self-Sufficiency and Child Welfare. This program has greatly expanded the supportive services the Center for Hope and Safety has always made available to our customers and staff.

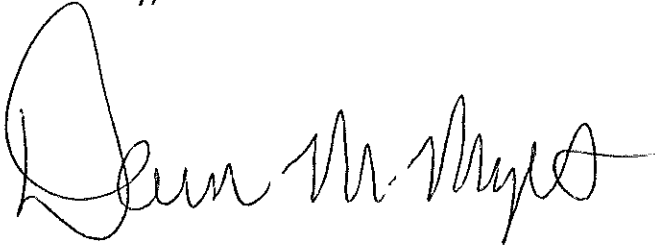
ODHS understands the difficulty many of our customers experience in securing affordable housing. The lack of quality low-income housing options has greatly impacted all our customers, especially those facing additional challenges such as domestic violence. For these reasons, ODHS and Center for Hope & Safety staff have

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been discussing the possibility of having a Self-Sufficiency Family Coach placed at the HOPE Plaza site. This would greatly reduce barriers and increase survivor's access to important ODHS programs and services. We look forward to continuing our partnership with CHS and look forward to the opening of the HOPE Plaza housing project.

Every day of the year, the Center for Hope & Safety plays a vital role in supporting victims of violence in our community. We hope you will favorably support their application for support of the HOPE Plaza Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn M. Myers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "M".

Dawn Myers
Oregon Department of Human Services
Self-Sufficiency Program Manager
Marion/Polk/Yamhill County