



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 9:00am

Department: Health & Human Services

Title: Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Management Update/Work Session Date: 2/10/2026 Audio/Visual aids

Time Required: 10 Contact: Samantha Andress Phone: x4903

Requested Action: Approve a proclamation to designate April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Marion County.

Issue, Description & Background: April is nationally recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month. As part of the Child Abuse Prevention Month Planning Committee, MCHHS has led the 2026 efforts bringing together community partners, agencies, and advocates to collaboratively plan and implement county-wide activities during Child Abuse Prevention Month. The committee works to ensure efforts are well-coordinated, visible and with a shared focus on raising awareness, strengthening partnerships, and promoting the prevention of child abuse across Marion County.

Financial Impacts: N/A

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: N/A

List of attachments: Powerpoint, Proclamation

Presenter: Sid Venkatachalam

Department Head Signature: Ryan Matthews Digitally signed by Ryan Matthews Date: 2026.03.17 10:55:40 -07'00'



EVERYONE has a role
in preventing
child abuse

Child Abuse Prevention Month • April 2026

Marion County Child Abuse Prevention Month Planning Committee

- Boys & Girls Club of Salem, Marion & Polk Counties
- CASA of Marion County
- Center for Hope & Safety
- City of Salem
- Family Building Blocks
- Liberty House
- Marion County Health & Human Services
- Marion County Sheriff's Office
- Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub
- Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
- Salem Angels
- Salem-Keizer Public Schools
- Salem Leadership Foundation
- Salem Police Department
- The Salvation Army Kroc Center
- Valor Mentoring
- YMCA of Marion and Polk Counties

2024 by the numbers

8,242

Founded CPS assessments
for abuse

11,669

Victims involved
(in founded assessments)

814

Victims in
Marion County

35.9%

Victims age 5
or younger

Imagine a community that focuses on prevention

- Recognize the importance of parents, family members, friends, teachers, coaches, mentors, and other safe adults.
- Enjoy spending time building relationships with the children in your lives.
- Learn how to talk to children about body safety, boundaries, healthy touch, and identifying safe adults.





Imagine a community that focuses on prevention

- Get trained to recognize potential signs and react responsibly to concerns of abuse.
- Support organizations and join in community efforts focused on strengthening families.

**Prevention happens when you
become AWARE and then ACT.**

Ways to help - practical steps

- Be a nurturing parent (attention & warmth matter).
- Be available - build the relationship that makes asking for help easier.
- Get involved: volunteer, coach, or mentor.
- Help a friend, neighbor, or relative who is overwhelmed.
- Talk about body safety, boundaries, and healthy touch.
- Trust your intuition. Speak up when something seems off.
- Report suspected abuse or neglect (don't investigate on your own) to 855-503-SAFE (7233).
- Seek professional help when families or children need support.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Pick one step to take this month:

- Start (or restart) regular check-ins with a child in your life.
- Learn the signs and how to respond responsibly to concerns.
- Share prevention messages (wear blue, post, invite others)
- Support local organizations strengthening families.



EVERYONE has a role in preventing child abuse.

Thank you for your doing **YOUR** part!



ParentfortheFuture.com



BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FOR MARION COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of proclaiming the month of April)
2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in)
Marion County.)

PROCLAMATION

This matter came before the Marion County Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled public meeting on April 1, 2026.

WHEREAS, the health and viability of our community is dependent upon the investment in our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, of all completed CPS assessments in Oregon, 8,242 were founded for abuse and involved 11,669 victims (35.9% were 5 years old and younger), of which 814 were victims in Marion County; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all members of the community to become aware of the issues involved in the prevention of harm to young people so that the next generation will be safe, strong and successful; and

WHEREAS, by strengthening families and providing safe, stable, and nurturing environments that are free from violence, abuse, and neglect, opportunities are created for children's optimal growth and success, ensuring a secure future for our communities, where the needs of children are a priority, and the needs of families are met; and

WHEREAS, the Marion County Board of Commissioners asks everyone to join together as individuals, organizations, and government agencies to protect our children and prevent child abuse in our community; now therefore

IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that the month of April 2026 is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Marion County.

DATED at Salem, Oregon, this 1st day of April 2026.

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson

Commissioner

Commissioner