

# Mission Statement

The mission of the Multnomah County Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (**DVERT**) is to increase victim safety and offender accountability in high risk/ high lethality domestic violence cases through a collaborative interagency response that considers the needs of victims and their children.

The goal of intervention is to stop the assailant's violence. The focus of intervention is to protect the victim from further harm.

Multnomah County DVERT is funded by generous grants from:



\* The United Way of the Columbia-Willamette



\* This project was supported by Grant No. 2004-WT-AX-K073 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

## DVERT Partners

Catholic Charities – El Programa Hispano

Department of Human Services – Child Welfare and Self Sufficiency

Gresham Police Department

Legal Aid Services – Multnomah County

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ)

Multnomah County District Attorney's Office (DA's office)

Multnomah County Domestic Violence Coordinator's Office

Multnomah County Animal Services

Portland Police Bureau – Family Services Division

Raphael House of Portland

Volunteers of America – Home Free



**MULTNOMAH COUNTY**

### For More Information Contact:

**Joslyn Baker**

**DVERT** Project Coordinator  
10225 E Burnside Street  
Portland, OR 97216

503-988-6440 phone  
503-988-0078 fax

Joslyn.r.baker@co.multnomah.or.us

0407-revise 500

# DVERT

**Domestic  
Violence  
Enhanced  
Response  
Team**



**MULTNOMAH COUNTY**

# Overview of DVERT

The Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team, called **DVERT**, provides a coordinated intervention for domestic violence victims and offenders with partnership with local law enforcement agency, victim service providers, and other partners in the criminal and civil legal systems. **DVERT** is a nationally recognized model of intervention for high-risk/high lethality domestic violence cases. **DVERT** is co-located with the Portland Police Bureau's Domestic Violence Reduction Unit. **DVERT's** goals are to:

- Enhancing the safety of victims and their children who are at high-risk for lethality or severe re-assault.
- Ensuring appropriate containment of offenders who are at highrisk to re-offend or have the potential for lethal violence.
- Partnering with local law enforcement agencies.

In addition, the **DVERT** members are available to:

- Provide specialized training locally and nationally; and
- Support communities seeking to develop and sustain similar collaborative efforts.

## Referring a case to DVERT

Multnomah County **DVERT** accepts referrals of cases for possible collaborative response. If you think you have a high-risk domestic violence case that would benefit from a coordinated, multidisciplinary response including

investigation and prosecution of crimes in Multnomah County:

- Review the case within your agency to determine if the case is a high-risk domestic violence case.
- Contact the victim to discuss the role of **DVERT** and gauge the victim's interest in participating in the **DVERT** process.
- Submit **DVERT** one page referral form to **DVERT** Project Coordinator by fax or electronically.
- A **DVERT** victim advocate will contact the victim and complete the comprehensive referral which includes assessments of lethality and recidivism. The assessment tool used by **DVERT** are evidence based predictive for reassault.
- The **DVERT** Project Coordinator will then present the case for review by all partners at a **DVERT** meeting.
- When a case is accepted by **DVERT** an action plan is developed. You will be kept informed of the progress.

## DVERT Meetings

These meetings are multidisciplinary and facilitated by the **DVERT** Project Coordinator.

A summary of each new case is presented by the person making the **DVERT** referral.

- **DVERT** outlines ways in which **DVERT** could improve the outcomes for the case.
- **DVERT** discusses the case and makes recommendations regarding the assignment.
- Case action plans are reviewed and updated at each **DVERT** meeting.

## DVERT Cases

Each **DVERT** case is unique and brings its own set of risks and opportunities. Generally, cases accepted by **DVERT** exhibit at least two or three of the following factors:

- Offender has a history of domestic violence reports.
- Offender repeatedly violates the restraining order.
- Escalation of frequency, intensity or type of violence.
- Offender threatens to kill the victim.
- Offender regularly uses drugs and/or alcohol.
- Victim feels that his/her life is in danger.

## DVERT is making a difference

**DVERT** has worked on over 100 high-risk domestic violence cases, providing enhanced services to those who are impacted by domestic violence.

- 74% of **DVERT** cases with completed intervention have no new domestic violence crimes.
- Partners report that their agency has changed how it works with domestic violence cases because of **DVERT**.
- **DVERT** is improving collaboration and effective intervention in high risk domestic violence cases in Multnomah County.



# DVERT

**Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team**