

**ABBREVIATED CONSENT CALENDAR FORMAT**

W. G. A.

Memorandum Date: February 7, 2011  
Order Date: February 23, 2011

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AGENDA DATE: February 23, 2011

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

PRESENTED BY: Karen Gaffney



AGENDA TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH AS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH IN LANE COUNTY

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**I. MOTION**

In the Matter of Proclaiming the Month of March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Lane County.

**II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM**

Organizations throughout Oregon and the United States recognize the month of March as Developmental Disabilities Month, an opportunity to raise public awareness about developmental disabilities and foster a better understanding of the benefits to our community when people with developmental disabilities live full and productive lives as part of our community.

**III. DISCUSSION**

A. Background / Analysis

Intellectual and/or developmental disabilities affect nearly seven million Americans, including a physical or mental impairment that provides learning and mobility challenges, as well as the need for assistance with activities of daily living. In Lane County, there are 4,000 people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who live, work, and contribute to our communities.

Lane County Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) is working to increase public awareness about intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. In particular, DDS strives to ensure that persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities have the opportunity to access individualized care through person-centered planning and to make choices about residential and vocational opportunities.

Most importantly, individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities must have the opportunity to lead lives that offer them a meaningful quality of life. This meaningful quality of life exists for them when they:

1. Receive, at all stages of their lives, the support, encouragement, opportunity, and resources to explore and define how they want to live and who is in their lives;
2. Choose the services and supports they need and, receive them anywhere in the country without waiting for an uncertain and extended length of time;
3. Direct the services and supports they receive;
4. Lead a life enriched by friends and family and have opportunities for intimate relationships based on informed consent and responsibilities;
5. Experience life-long learning and develop decision-making skills;
6. Work in a job that is meaningful to them;
7. Enjoy the same rights and respect for their dignity and privacy, as do people without disabilities;

There continue to be advancements in securing the rights and dignity of people with developmental disabilities which has increased their inclusion in community life and supported them in setting and achieving their goals in various areas of endeavor.

The monthly celebration invites all Lane County citizens to join in applauding their achievements and supporting this month long observance as it encourages their continued progress as members of the Lane County community.

There will be an art exhibit featuring the work of individuals who experience autism spectrum disorder (a developmental disability) during the month of March, in the gallery outside Harris Hall in the Public Service Building.

**B. Alternatives / Options**

1. To recognize and support National Developmental Disabilities Month in Lane County.
2. Not to recognize and support National Developmental Disabilities Month in Lane County.

**C. Recommendation**

To approve number one above.

**D. Timing / Implementation**

Upon Board action, March 2011 will be declared National Developmental Disabilities Month in Lane County.

**IV. ATTACHMENTS**

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION: ) IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MARCH  
                  ) AS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS  
                  ) MONTH IN LANE COUNTY

Whereas, developmental disabilities affect nearly seven million people across America and there are 4,000 people with intellectual or developmental disabilities who live, work and contribute to our communities in Lane County; and,

Whereas, every person, regardless of ability, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn and the potential to make important contributions to their local and state communities; and,

Whereas, people with developmental disabilities in Oregon share with the state's other residents the right to live life as they choose in their educational experience, employment, recreation and homes; and,

Whereas, the past few decades have seen advancements in securing the rights and dignity of people with developmental disabilities which has increased their inclusion in community life and helped them set and achieve their goals in various areas of endeavor; and

Whereas, celebrating the abilities and contributions of people with developmental disabilities serves to enhance the diversity and to enrich the communities in Lane County and all of Oregon; and,

WHEREAS, all Lane County citizens are invited to join in applauding their achievements and supporting this month long observance as it encourages their continued progress as members of the Lane County community; and,

WHEREAS, an exhibit featuring the work of artists who experience autism spectrum disorder (a developmental disability) is available during the month of March, in the gallery outside Harris Hall in the Public Service Building; and,

WHEREAS, the month of March has been designated National Developmental Disabilities Awareness month, with advocacy groups and organizations nationwide undertaking public awareness, and educational activities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lane County Board of Commissioners proclaim March, 2011 as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness month in Lane County and encourage residents to give full support to efforts that enable people with developmental disabilities to live full and productive lives of inclusion in our communities.

Effective this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February, 2011.

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
Date 2/14/11 lane county  
[Signature]  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

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Faye Stewart, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners