

RESOLUTION APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ASHTABULA COUNTY AND THE CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER IN SUPPORT OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE OVW FY 2021 IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding has been presented for the approval of the Board, to-wit:

Scope: an MOU to support the grant application for the OVW FY 2021 Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Grant Program

Parties: Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, 2937 W. 25th St., 2nd Floor, Cleveland, OH 44113
Ashtabula County Commissioners, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH 44047

Cost: No cost to the county, county to receive \$30,000 per year for 4 years, if grant is received

Term: if the grant is received, this MOU would coincide with the grant period anticipated to be 10/1/2021 through 9/30/2025; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio that the Memorandum of Understanding as noted above is approved in accordance with the copy now on file in this office.

**ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CERTIFICATION PAGE**

Resolution No. 2021-126

March 30, 2021

RESOLUTION APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ASHTABULA COUNTY AND THE CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER IN SUPPORT OF A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE OVW FY 2021 IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING GRANT PROGRAM

Upon the motion of Casey R. Kozlowski, seconded by J.P. Ducro IV.

VOTE:

**Kathryn L. Whittington
J.P. Ducro IV
Casey R. Kozlowski**

**Aye
Aye
Aye**

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution acted upon and duly passed by the Board of County Commissioners of Ashtabula County, Ohio, on the date noted above.



Crystal Sturgill, Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County, Ohio

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and Ashtabula County, Ohio
March 25, 2021

WHEREAS, **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center** and **Ashtabula County** have come together to collaborate and to make an application for the OVW Fiscal Year 2021 Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Grant Program.

WHEREAS, the partners listed below have agreed to enter into a collaborative agreement in which **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC)** will be the lead agency and named applicant and **Ashtabula County** will be the partner in this application; and

WHEREAS, the partners herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the application prepared and approved by the collaborative through its partners is to be submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women on or before **March 31, 2021**.

I) Description of Partner Agencies

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center's mission is to support survivors of rape and sexual abuse, promote healing and prevention and advocate for social change. CRCC was founded in 1974 in response to Northeast Ohio's persistent and growing need for services to support survivors of rape and sexual abuse. Over the last 46 years, CRCC has grown from a grassroots, volunteer-run hotline, to an 62-employee nonprofit and national leader in providing counseling services, victim assistance in the justice system, and 24-hour services to survivors of rape and sexual abuse across four counties. As an integral provider in our region's Health and Human Services safety net, In 2020, CRCC reached more than 23,000 individuals through direct survivor services and community-based prevention education, outreach and professional training.

Ashtabula County- The three-member Board of County Commissioners forms the main administrative agency of the county. The Board of Commissioners approves the annual budget, levies taxes for county purposes, issues bonds for capital improvements, and serves as the purchasing and contracting agent for the County. The Board of Commissioners has direct authority over many county departments.

II) History of Relationships

CRCC began providing services in Ashtabula County over the course of the last few years. Upon expansion into the county, CRCC focused heavily on cultivating relationships with other agencies in order to learn more about needs within the county and any gaps in services. These connections included local law enforcement, the sheriff's office, the prosecutor's office, and Homesafe, Ashtabula County's domestic violence shelter. As its relationships within the county grew, CRCC opened a standalone office in Ashtabula County in 2017.

As time progressed, county agencies identified a need for a formal multi-disciplinary team and the benefits that formal relationships would offer. The team was established in 2020. Having the team in place assists in the effort to reach as many survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence as possible, while ensuring that these survivors receive all the comprehensive services they need. For example, CRCC's advocates regularly work closely and successfully with victim advocates within the prosecutor's office. This project would be a positive next step for the team when it comes to criminal justice responses in the county, specifically.

III) Development of Application

CRCC is the lead applicant in the proposed project and holds primary responsibility for application development. However, CRCC has communicated with the partner to discuss project goals, structure, and relevant timelines. Ashtabula County provided CRCC with valuable information to include within the application, and collaboration will continue throughout the grant period.

IV) Roles and Responsibilities

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the partners as follows:

- 1) **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center** will assist Ashtabula County in strengthening victim services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking that they encounter. This assistance will be provided in the form of one full-time embedded CRCC professional exclusively used for Ashtabula County purposes, for the administration of this grant only, to enhance staff knowledge in serving these victims and one additional full-time CRCC advocate for exclusive use of Ashtabula County residents, for the administration of this grant only, embedded in the county to provide advocacy and linkages to identified victims.

CRCC will designate the key personnel to implement the project and ensure the completion of set objectives. CRCC's Chief Program Officer will provide leadership and oversight of the project.

- 2) **Ashtabula County** will provide support to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and family violence in numerous ways.
- 3) **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center and Ashtabula County** will collaborate to ensure improved coordination and support victims of sexual violence in numerous ways, especially by enhancing the advocacy services available to them, as well the expertise of those who they encounter in various systems.


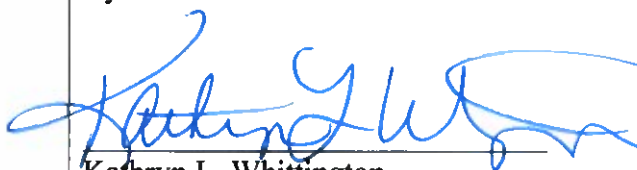
Additionally, from these grant funds, \$30,000 each year, for the duration of the grant period, shall be allocated and distributed to the county commissioners general fund to expend for local needs pursuant and specific to the program narrative of the grant application attached to this agreement.

V) Timeline

The roles and responsibilities described above are contingent on **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center** receiving funds requested for the project described in the OVW grant application. Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding would coincide with the grant period, anticipated to be **10/1/2021** through **9/30/2025**.

VI) Commitment to Partnership

- 1) The collaboration service area includes Ashtabula County, Ohio.
- 2) The partners agree to collaborate and provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, family violence, and stalking pursuant to the program narrative of the grant application attached to this agreement.
- 3) We, the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU. Further, we have reviewed the proposed project and approve it.

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| <p>By</p>  <hr/> <p>Sondra Miller President and CEO Cleveland Rape Crisis Center</p> <p>Date <u>3/25/2021</u></p> | <p>By</p>  <hr/> <p>Kathryn L. Whittington President of the Board of County Commissioners Ashtabula County</p> <p>Date <u>3/25/2021</u></p> |
|--|---|

**ASHTABULA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**
Kathryn L. Whittington
J. P. Ducro IV
Casey R. Kozlowski



25 W. Jefferson St.
Jefferson, OH 44047-1092
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commissioners@ashtabulacounty.us

March 23, 2021

Director
Office on Violence Against Women
145 N Street, NE
Suite 10 W.121
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program Certification of Eligibility

Dear Director:

As a County Commissioner of Ashtabula County, Ohio, I submit this letter to certify to the following:

1. the laws or official policies of Ashtabula County encourage or mandate arrests of domestic violence offenders based on probable cause that an offense has been committed;
2. the laws or official policies of Ashtabula County encourage or mandate arrests of domestic violence offenders who violate the terms of a valid and outstanding protection order;
3. the laws, policies, or practices and the training programs of Ashtabula County discourage dual arrests of offender and victim;
4. the laws, policies, or practices of Ashtabula County prohibit issuance of mutual restraining orders of protection except in cases where both parties file a claim and the court makes detailed findings of fact indicating that both parties acted primarily as aggressors and that neither party acted primarily in self-defense;
5. the laws, policies, and practices of Ashtabula County do not require, in connection with the prosecution of any misdemeanor or felony domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking offense, or in connection with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal, or service of a protection order, or a petition for a protection order, to protect a victim of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, that the victim bear the costs associated with the filing of criminal charges against the offender, or the costs associated with the filing, issuance, registration, modification, enforcement, dismissal or service of a warrant, protection order, petition for a protection order, or witness subpoena, whether issued inside or outside the state, tribal, or local jurisdiction; and
6. the laws, policies or practices of Ashtabula County ensure that:
 - a. no law enforcement officer, prosecuting officer or other government official shall ask or require an adult, youth, or child victim of a sex offense as defined under federal, tribal, state, territorial, or local law to submit to a polygraph examination or other truth telling device as a condition for proceeding with the investigation of, trial of, or sentencing for such an offense; and
 - b. the refusal of a victim to submit to an examination described in subparagraph (A) shall not prevent the investigation of, trial of, or sentencing for the offense.

Sincerely,

ASHTABULA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kathryn Whittington, President

J. P. Ducro IV, Vice-President

Casey Kozlowski, Commissioner