

RESOLUTION APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER, ASHTABULA COUNTY, ASHTABULA COUNTY PROSECUTOR AND HOMESAFE, INC. TO COLLABORATE ON THE GRANT PROJECT, "IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING IN ASHTABULA COUNTY" AND APPLICATION FOR FY 2022 IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE (ICJR) GRANT PROGRAM

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

Scope: the MOU to support the grant application for the OVW FY 2022 Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Grant Program. Application prepared and submitted to the Office on Violence Against Women on or before April 28, 2022.

Partners: Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, 2937 W. 25th St., 2nd Floor, Cleveland, OH 44113
Ashtabula County Commissioners, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH 44047
Ashtabula County Prosecutor, 25 W. Jefferson St., Jefferson, OH 44047
Homesafe, Inc., PO Box 702, Ashtabula, OH 44005

Cost: No cost to the county, roles and responsibilities are contingent on CRCC receiving funds requested for the project described in the OVW grant application.

Term: if the grant is received, this MOU would coincide with the grant period anticipated to be 10/1/2022 through 9/30/2026; and

WHEREAS, this MOU replaces the MOU approved on March 30, 2021 by Resolution Number 2021-126; and

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center will serve as the lead agency and named applicant who holds primary responsibility for application development; and

WHEREAS, the other agencies named above will be partners in the application and project; 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. 2023-641

December 28, 2023

RESOLUTION APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CLEVELAND RAPE CRISIS CENTER, ASHTABULA COUNTY, ASHTABULA COUNTY PROSECUTOR AND HOMESAFE, INC. TO COLLABORATE ON THE GRANT PROJECT, "IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND STALKING IN ASHTABULA COUNTY" AND APPLICATION FOR FY 2022 IMPROVING CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE (ICJR) GRANT PROGRAM

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

VOTE:

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

**Aye
Absent
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.



Lisa Hawkins, Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County, Ohio

Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS, **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, Ashtabula County, Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office, and Homesafe, Inc.** have come together to collaborate on the grant project "Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking in Ashtabula County" and application for FY 2022 Improving Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) Grant Program; and

WHEREAS the applicant and partners have entered into a collaborative agreement in which **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center** will be the lead agency and named applicant and the other agencies will be partners in this application and project; 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 April 28, 2022.

I) Description of Partner Agencies

- **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC)** functions 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 49 years, CRCC has grown from a grassroots, volunteer-run hotline, to a 80-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.
- **Ashtabula County** is overseen by a three-member Board of County Commissioners, 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.
- **Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office** provides the citizens of Ashtabula County with a safe effective and sustained justice system representing the rights and interest of the citizens, office holders and victims of Ashtabula County, including victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Prosecuting Attorney acts as the chief law enforcement officer for the County.
- **Homesafe, Inc. (Homesafe)** is a domestic violence shelter and service provider with over 40 years of experience providing services to survivors of domestic violence in Ashtabula



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County. The agency's mission is to provide emergency shelter and support services to survivors of domestic violence throughout Northeast Ohio. While CRCC has experience and expertise in serving survivors of sexual violence of all kinds, Homesafe brings vital expertise and experience in serving survivors of domestic and family violence.

II) History of Relationship

When CRCC expanded service delivery into Ashtabula County, the agency focused heavily on cultivating relationships with other organizations in order to learn more about needs within the county and any gaps in services. These connections included local law enforcement, the Prosecutor's Office, and Homesafe. As its relationships within the county grew and need for services became more apparent, 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 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) 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.

This project will enable CRCC to increase collaborative efforts in Ashtabula County in order to:

- Enhance criminal justice responses to incidents of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking through building upon the knowledge of law enforcement staff and updating of relevant agency policies and procedures.
- Establish a multi-disciplinary team in the county to review sexual assault and human trafficking cases quarterly.
- Increase in the number of survivors served by CRCC in Ashtabula County, directly related to the embedding of a dedicated Advocacy Coordinator within the county.
- Tailor training to fit the needs of various law enforcement groups to enhance their understanding of engaging with survivors of sexual assault and rape, including topics such as trauma response, victim engagement, implicit bias, and trauma-informed interviewing.

III) Development of Application

CRCC is the lead applicant in the proposed project and holds primary responsibility for application development. However, CRCC communicated with partners to discuss project goals, structure, and relevant timelines. Collaboration will continue throughout the grant period. The partners agree to collaborate and provide support services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking pursuant to the program narrative of the grant application.

IV) Roles and Responsibilities

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

- **Cleveland Rape Crisis Center** will provide project management efforts related to the grant through the dedicated Advocacy Coordinator. This new, full-time position will fill the coordinator requirement for the grant and will correspond with OVW and TA providers throughout funding period, as outlined in the RFP. CRCC will also provide additional staff time, equipment, and supplies as needed to complete project activities. CRCC will also lead the county's SART.
- **Ashtabula County** will provide support for the project and will participate in trainings, as appropriate, and will utilize their positions to encourage participation and improvements in the overall systems which victims encounter.
- **Ashtabula County Prosecutor's Office** will receive funds to hire a part-time coordinator position who will work closely with CRCC's Advocacy Coordinator. The individual will aid with scheduling, training, and policy review efforts detailed in the grant application.
- **Homesafe** will provide services including shelter, crisis intervention, case management, victim advocacy, trauma counseling, and coordination of care for victims. The agency will receive funding through this grant that will cover a portion of a Trauma Therapist within CRCC's Ashtabula office.

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 10/1/2022 through 9/30/2026.


VI) Commitment to Partnership

1. The collaboration service area includes Ashtabula County, Ohio.
2. The partners agree to collaborate and provide support services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking pursuant to the program narrative of the grant application attached to this agreement.
3. Compensation for partners' contributions to this project will be provided as outlined in the attached OVW budget detail worksheet.
4. We, the undersigned have read and agree with this memorandum of understanding. Further, we have reviewed the proposed project and have approved it.



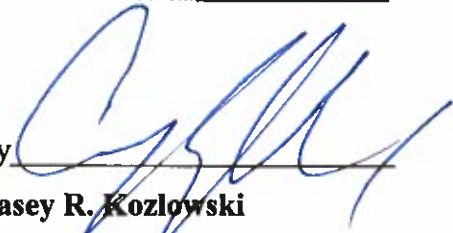
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By 

Sondra Miller
President & Chief Executive Officer
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center

Date 12/11/2023

By 

Casey R. Kozlowski
President of the Board of County Commissioners
Ashtabula County

Date 12/20/23

By 

Colleen O'Toole
Prosecuting Attorney
Ashtabula Prosecutor's Office

Date _____

By 

Julie Sundquist
Executive Director
Homesafe, Inc.

Date 12/14/23