



Metropolitan Family Service

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MEDIA ALERT

Metropolitan Family Service Hosts Second Older Adult Suicide Prevention Forum

Portland, OR—October 10, 2008—“Both nationally and in Oregon suicide rates are highest among older adults compared with any other age group.”

-Oregon Older Adult Suicide Prevention Plan, May 2006

A second regional forum on suicide prevention strategies will be held next week to further develop plans to reduce older adult suicides in Oregon.

**WHERE: St. Philip Neri Church
Carvlin Hall 2408 SE 16th Ave. Portland, OR 97214**
WHEN: Wednesday, October 15, 2008
TIME: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

This forum will bring together the participants from last year's panel to address the high rate of suicides among older adults in our area. Participants from last year's forum will form a panel to share prevention strategies attempted through clinical, community based and research strategies identified last year. A broad spectrum of disciplines will be participating in the panel - from fields of law enforcement, social, health and mental health services, faith communities and interested citizens.

Active older volunteers in our community will share how community service has supported their health and well being- especially in light of the recent research indicating a significant correlation between health and longevity and volunteer service of 100 hours/year or more.

Krista Larson, Executive Director of MFS will provide opening remarks, and will introduce Joanne Fuller Director of County Human Services for Multnomah County and Dr. Derald Walker, Executive Director of Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare. Our

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professional panelists will include Matt Bartolotti, LCSW, Charles Bentz, MD, Paul Iarrobino, Dr. Kevin Smith, Anissa Rogers, PhD and D'Norgia Price.

This event is co-sponsored by Metropolitan Family Service, Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services and Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare

Background Information

About **Metropolitan Family Service (MFS)**: For more than half a century, Metropolitan Family Service has played a vital role in the lives of children, families, and older adults. We provide services at more than 160 sites. Metropolitan Family Service makes connections that strengthen the lives of 33,000 individuals and families each year.

The **Multnomah County Aging and Disability Services** department assists older adults and persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible with a range of accessible, quality services that meet their diverse needs and preferences.

Cascadia delivers mental health and addictions treatment services to some of the state's most vulnerable, yet resilient, people. We also provide transitional and permanent housing to more than 750 individuals.

For more information, or to attend the service launch contact Pat Kaczmarek, Marketing and Communications Manager at 503.232.0007 ext.170.

You can visit our website at www.metfamily.org.

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