



# CHILD ABUSE ASSESSMENT IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

*Presented by: Amani Center Executive Director Amelia Kercher*



# ABOUT US

## OUR TEAM

We employ 29 staff who come from many different backgrounds and walks of life and are committed to addressing the issue of child abuse and family maltreatment for Columbia County.



**AMELIA KERCHER**

Executive Director for the Amani Center. Amelia has spent more than a decade dedicated to the prevention and intervention of child abuse and family maltreatment.

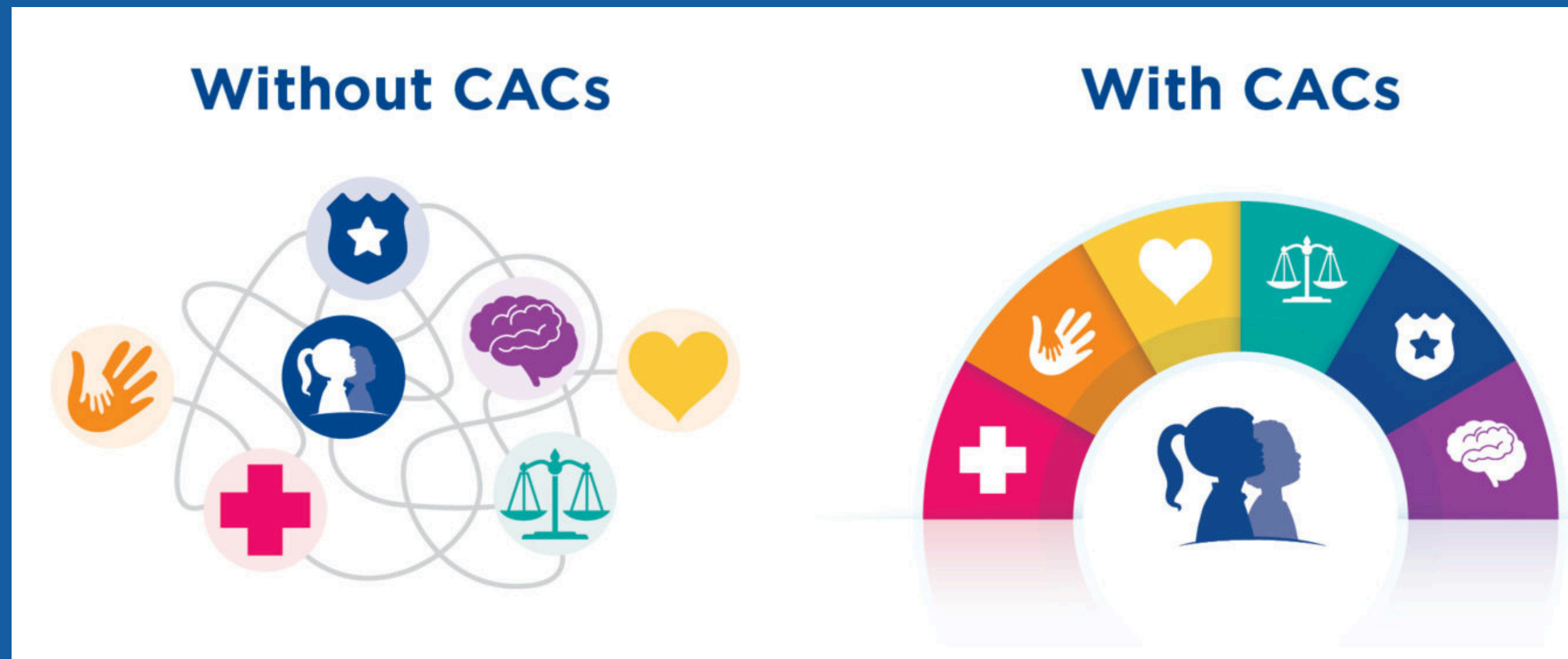


Members of Amani Staff and Board Meeting with ODHS Leaders and state-wide coordinators.

# What is a Child Advocacy Center?



Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell their story over and over again to doctors, police officers, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may have to talk in a police station where they think they might be in trouble or may be asked the wrong questions by a well-meaning teacher or other adult that could hurt their case.



When police or child protective services are involved, the child is brought to the CAC - a safe, child-focused environment - by a caregiver or other safe adult. At the CAC, the child tells their story one time to a trained interviewer who knows the right questions to ask in a way that does not retraumatize the child.

# Columbia County's Child Advocacy Center

## ● Our Mission

To provide forensic child abuse evaluations and support for children and their families who may have been impacted by abuse or neglect.

## ● Our Goal

The primary goal of the Center is to ensure that children (birth to 18 years of age) suspected to be victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, and/or domestic violence are provided with quality evaluative and support services in a child-friendly setting.

# Our History



## 25 years of Service

In 2000, a group of public and private agencies decided to address a lack of child abuse assessment and treatment services in Columbia County, Oregon. The Amani Center was formed through a collaborative, community-based grassroots movement ensuring that children in our community received services locally, minimizing trauma to child victims and their families.

Three years later, the Amani Center began providing forensic assessment services for children and support for families.

In 2023 we became fully accredited with the National Children's Alliance.

In the year 2024, the Amani Center served 248 children, and provided 6,200 services to children and caregivers.

# SERVICES WE PROVIDE

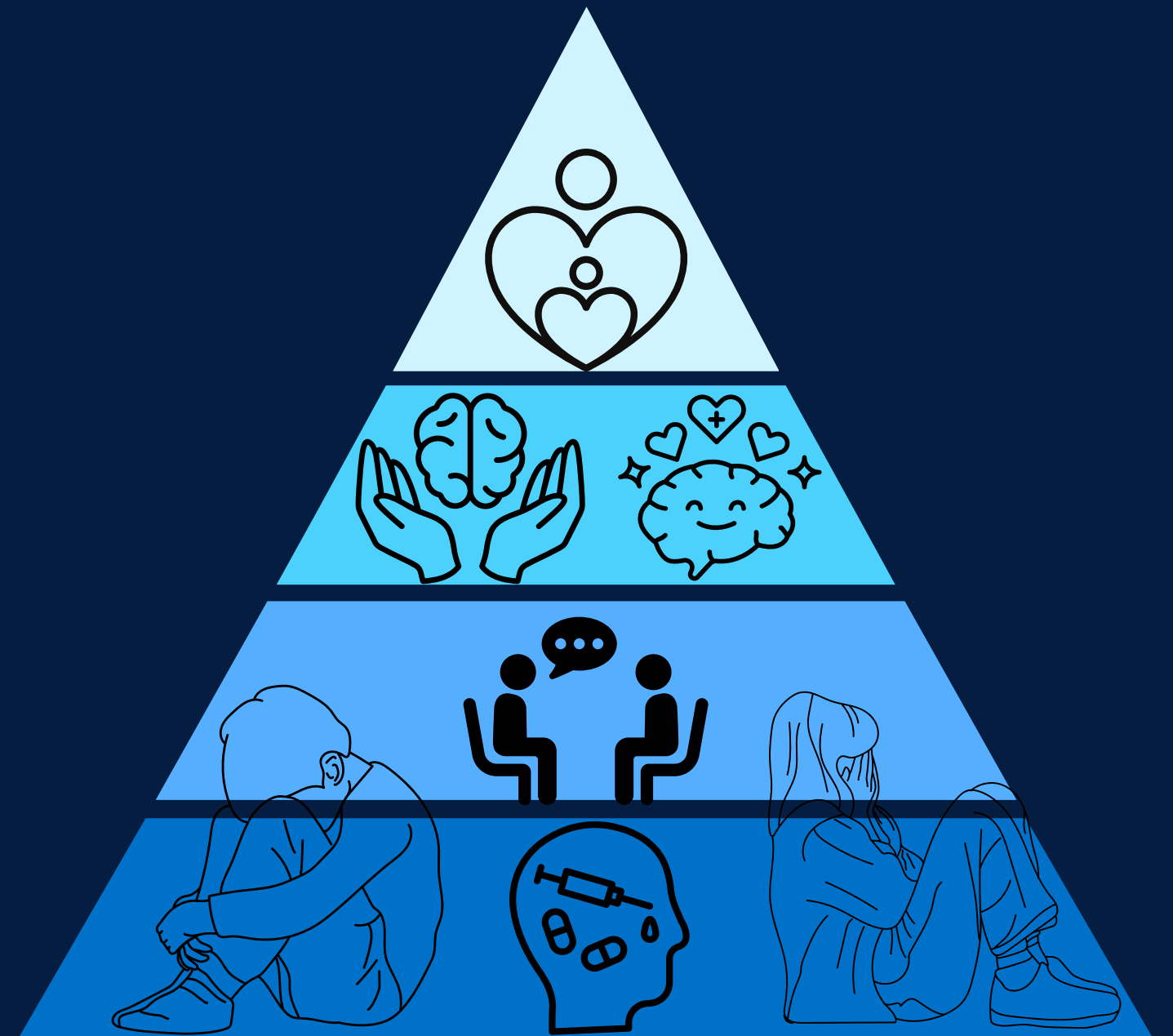
We typically receive referrals from Law Enforcement or Child Welfare advising us that a child needs an appointment for Forensic Assessment.

We provide a Forensic Medical Exam, Forensic Interview and Victim Advocacy Services.

We have recently added our trauma responsive Mental Health program to address the need in the community and compliment other local services.

We provide reports and information to investigators and testify at grand jury and on behalf of children in court.

We help to coordinate our county Multidisciplinary Team.



# OTHER ACTIVITIES

## Consultation

We provide consultation to organizations and individuals from the community and are available to provide information and guidance for Law Enforcement and Child Welfare.

## Child Fatality Review

We support the county DA's office by coordinating the Child Fatality Review Team. We do the work of gathering the records, scheduling, hosting the meeting and filing the reports.

## Training and Technical Assistance

We bring in trainings to the community whenever possible, such as the Mandatory Reporter Training for County Employees. We provide scholarships to MDT partners to attend high quality trainings and conferences.

## Prevention

Building a prevention program in response to community crisis related to our schools. Have set up for events and trainings with Protect our Children Oregon, Zero Abuse Project and more.

# WHY ARE FORENSIC ASSESSMENTS NEEDED?

Forensic Child Abuse Assessments help investigators obtain quality evidence that is admissible in court and can be used to hold perpetrators accountable, resulting in increased community safety and preventing additional victims.

They reduce trauma to children and families of the investigative processes and help to reduce the recurrence of abuse, it is the start of healing. Children healing from the trauma of child abuse helps to prevent negative long-term health consequences from the abuse.

About **1 in 7**  
children experienced  
child abuse and neglect  
in the last year.

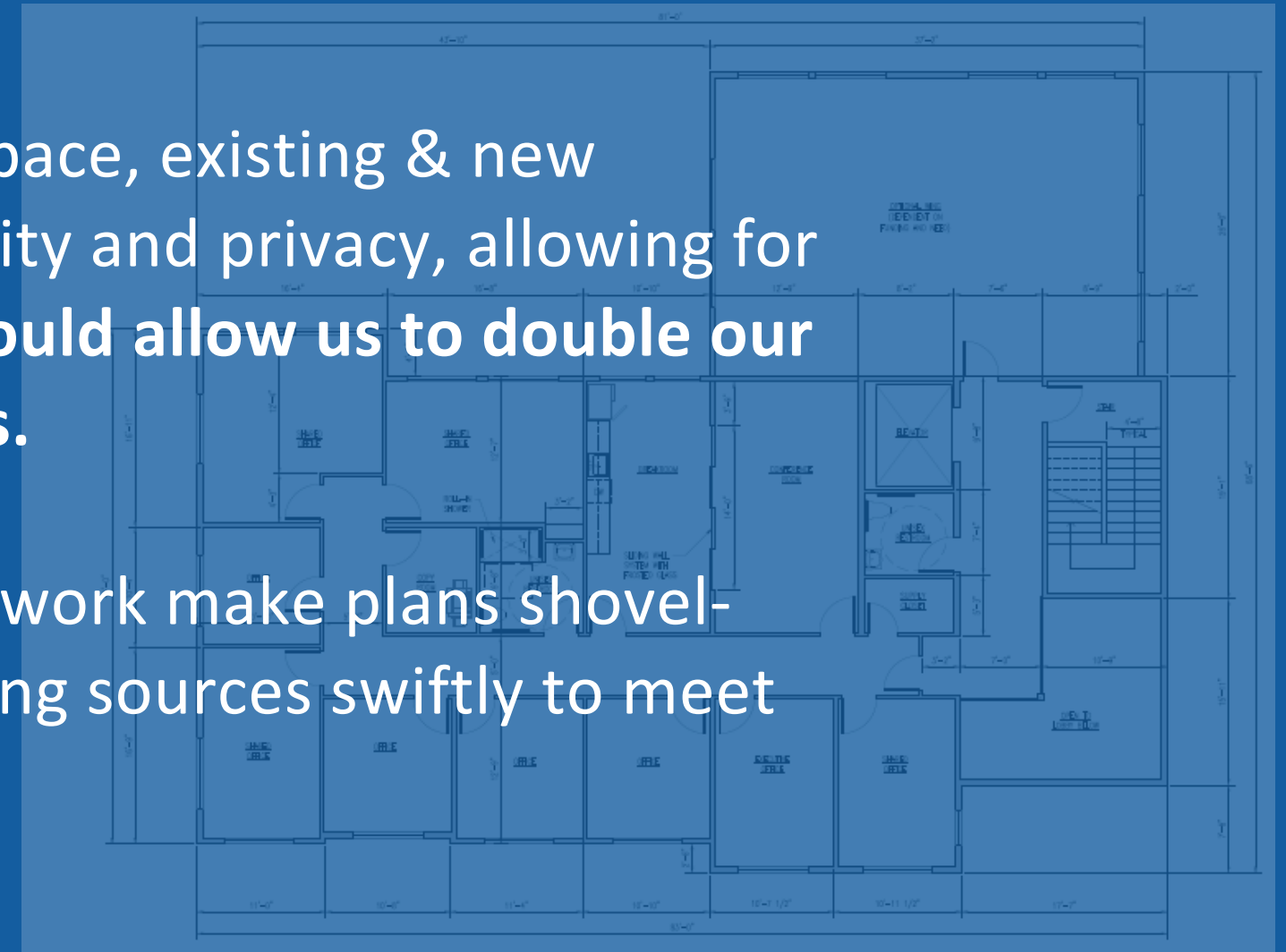


# Building Project

In 2023 we were gifted a piece of property to construct a permanent home for the center.

Our building project addresses insufficient space, existing & new program expansion needs. It increases security and privacy, allowing for a sensitive welcoming space. **These plans would allow us to double our current Victim Advocacy & Support Services.**

The donation of land and completion of pre-work make plans shovel-ready. The timeline hinges on securing funding sources swiftly to meet urgent community needs.



# NEW BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS

More than doubles capacity

Helps meet the need of our growing community.

Project Partners:  
Chris Dahlgren  
Artis Construction  
Lower Columbia  
Engineering

Permanent home for the organization able to withstand future growth needs

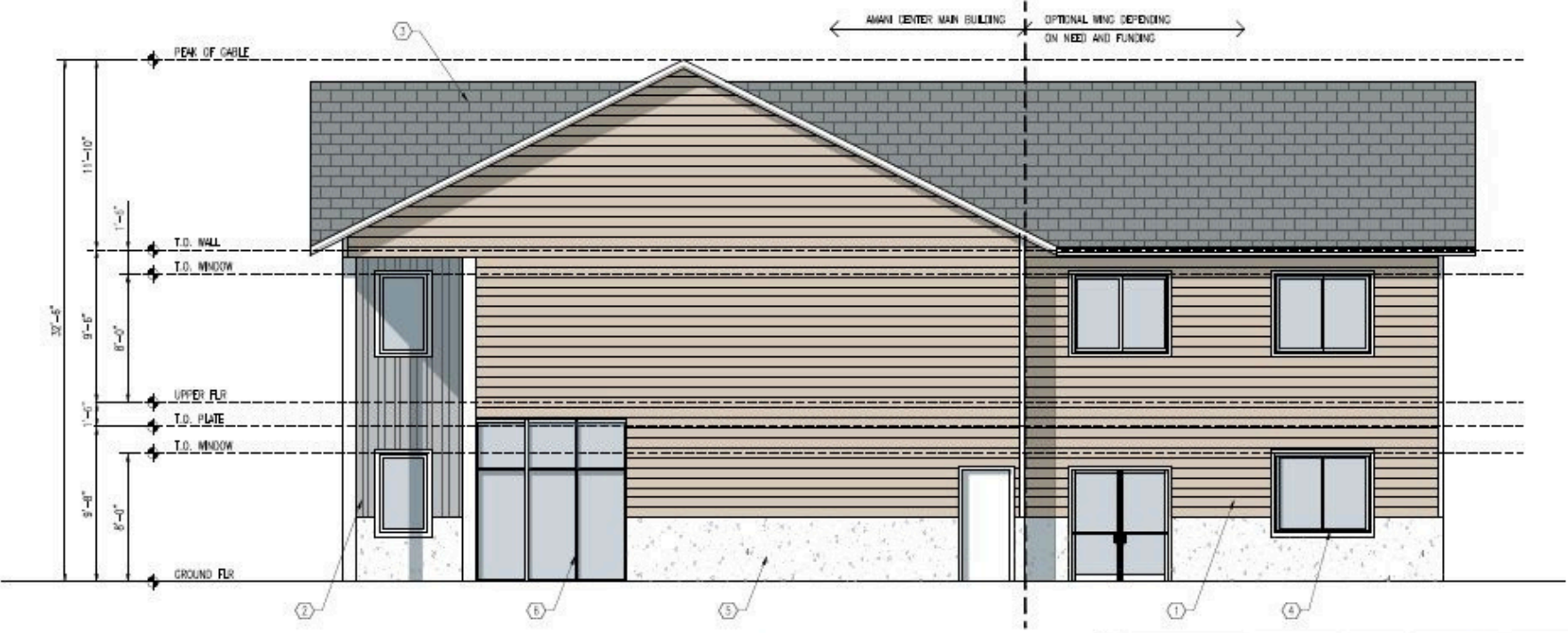
Increased ability to provide urgent services, keeping investigators in the community

Able to serve more than one family at a time.





EXTERIOR ELEVATION - WEST  
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



EXTERIOR ELEVATION - SOUTH  
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"

- MATERIALS KEYNOTES**
- ① TAG HORIZONTAL CEDAR SIDING (NATURAL COLOR)
  - ② METAL PANEL OR BOX RIB SIDING (GRAPHITE)
  - ③ DIMENSIONAL ASPHALT SHINGLE ROOF
  - ④ ALUMINUM MULLIONS (CHARCOAL)
  - ⑤ CONCRETE BASE
  - ⑥ ALUMINUM STOREFRONT GLAZING AT ENTRY
- FINISHES, PROFILES, AND COLORS ARE PRELIMINARY AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DATE: 01/15/2023  
PRELIMINARY  
NOT  
FOR CONSTRUCTION

| REV. | REVISION/RECORD | DATE |
|------|-----------------|------|
|      |                 |      |
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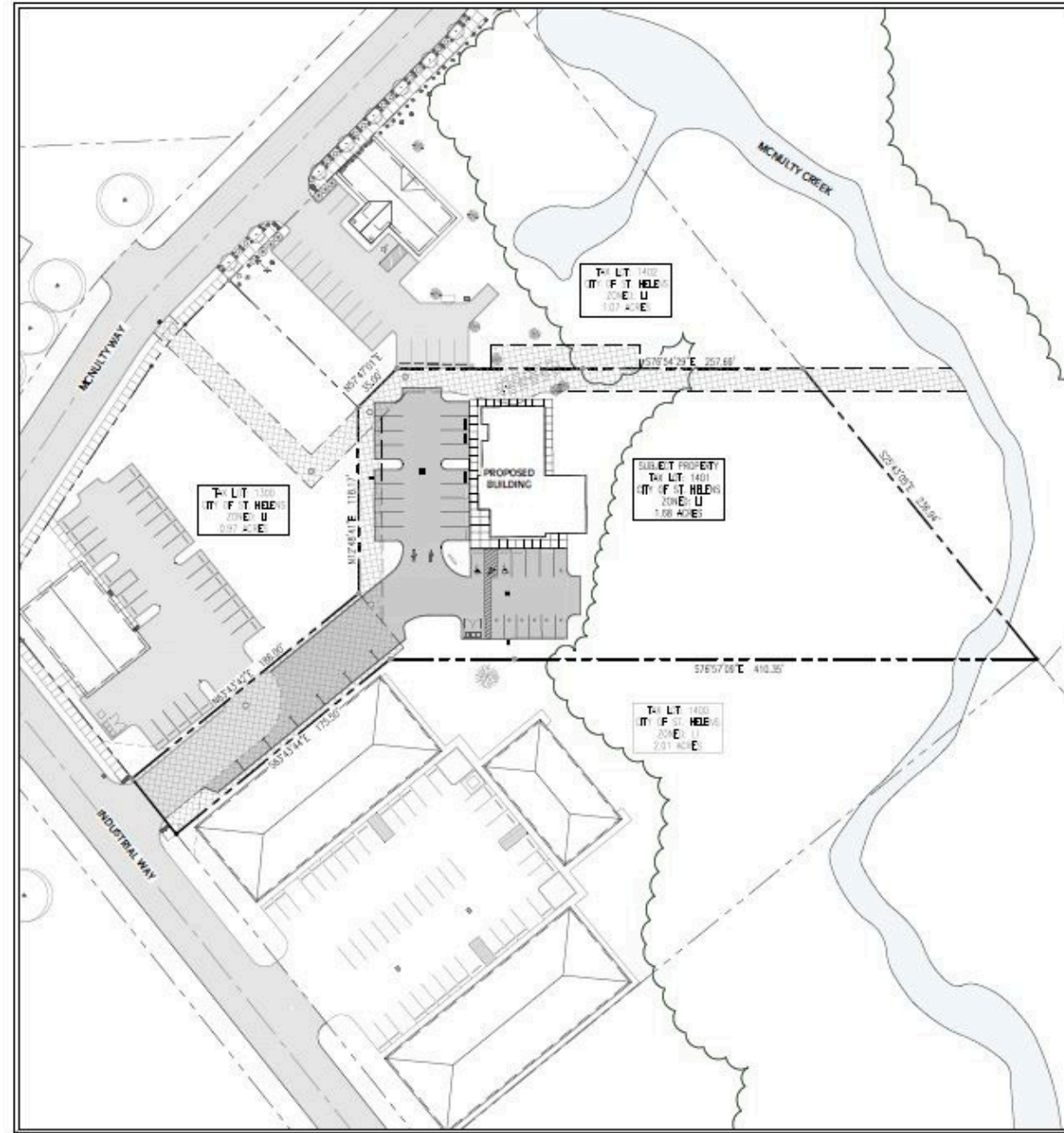
|           |               |                     |
|-----------|---------------|---------------------|
| PROJ. NO. | 3423          | EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS |
| ENG. BY   | MLA           | AMANI CENTER        |
| APPV. BY  | ERIC DAHLGREN |                     |
| FILE      | D-3423-A-3    | DATE 11/24/22       |

SHEET  
**A-3**

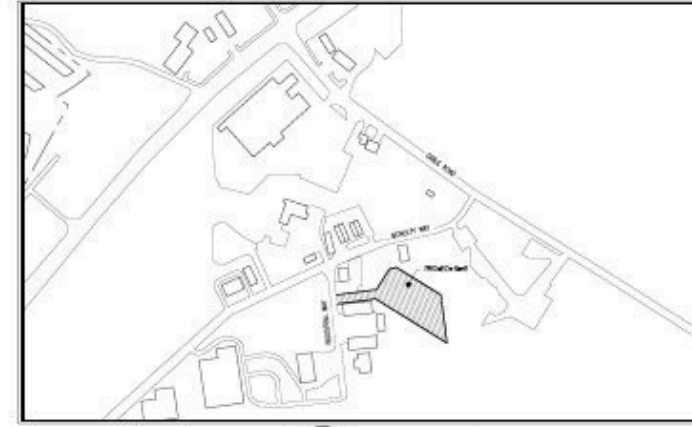
# AMANI CENTER FACILITY

ERIC DAHLGREN

INDUSTRIAL WAY  
ST. HELENS, OREGON 97051



PLOT PLAN  
SCALE 1" = 40'



VICINITY MAP  
SCALE 1" = 100'

| DRAWING INDEX |                              |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| SHEET         | DESCRIPTION                  |
| GENERAL       |                              |
| G-1           | COVER SHEET                  |
| CIVIL         |                              |
| C-1           | EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN     |
| C-2           | EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL |
| C-3           | CIVIL SITE PLAN              |
| C-4           | GRADING & UTILITIES PLAN     |
| ARCHITECTURAL |                              |
| A-1           | GROUND LEVEL FLOOR PLAN      |
| A-2           | UPPER LEVEL FLOOR PLAN       |
| A-3           | EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS          |

**PROJECT TEAM**

**ENGINEER & DESIGNER**  
LOWER COLUMBIA ENGINEERING  
58640 McNulty Way  
St. Helens, OR 97051  
PHONE: (503) 386-4389  
CONTACT: NATHAN ALEXANDER  
nalex@lowercolumbiaeng.com

**OWNER**  
ERIC DAHLGREN  
2110 4TH ST  
COLUMBIA CITY, OR 97015

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**  
PHIL DELOPMENT  
3330 NW YEIN AVENUE, SUITE 120  
PORTLAND, OR 97210  
PHONE: 503.248.9370  
CONTACT: PATRICK HESS  
phess@philinc.com

**EXISTING SITE AREA CALCULATIONS**

|                                    |                |         |
|------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| GROSS LOT AREA (SUBJECT PROPERTY): | 73,255 SQ. FT. | (100%)  |
| IMPERVIOUS / PAVED AREA:           | 3,316 SQ. FT.  | (4.5%)  |
| OPEN / LANDSCAPED AREAS:           | 69,939 SQ. FT. | (95.5%) |

**PROPOSED SITE AREA CALCULATIONS**

|                                    |                |        |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| GROSS LOT AREA (SUBJECT PROPERTY): | 73,255 SQ. FT. | (100%) |
| TOTAL IMPERVIOUS:                  | 24,337 SQ. FT. | (33%)  |
| BUILDING FOOTPRINT:                | 4,128 SQ. FT.  | (5%)   |
| STEWAGE/ADP/RAI:                   | 20,209 SQ. FT. | (28%)  |
| OPEN / LANDSCAPED AREAS:           | 48,911 SQ. FT. | (67%)  |

**PARKING REQUIREMENTS**

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| COMMERCIAL REQUIREMENT:          | 1 SPACE PER 350 SQ. FT.      |
| COMMERCIAL AREA PROPOSED:        | 8,008 SQ. FT.                |
| COMMERCIAL PARKING REQUIREMENT:  | 23 SPACES (8008/350 = 22.88) |
| <b>TOTAL PARKING:</b>            | <b>35 SPACES</b>             |
| ON-SITE STANDARD SPACES (9'x18') | 28 SPACES                    |
| ON-SITE COMPACT SPACES (8'x16')  | 5 SPACES                     |
| ACCESSIBLE SPACES (9'x10')       | 2 SPACES                     |
| BIKE PARKING:                    | 4 SPACES                     |

**GENERAL SITE INFO:**

|                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PROJECT NAME:        | AMANI CENTER FACILITY               |
| PROPOSED USE:        | PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES              |
| TOTAL LOT AREA:      | 73,255 SQ. FT. (APPROX. 1.68 ACRES) |
| TOTAL BUILDING AREA: | 8,008 SQ. FT.                       |
| FIRST FLOOR AREA:    | 4,128 SQ. FT.                       |
| SECOND FLOOR AREA:   | 3,880 SQ. FT.                       |
| BUILDING HEIGHT:     | 31'-6" (75' MAX)                    |

**SPECIAL NOTE:**  
LOWER COLUMBIA ENGINEERING HAS ONLY ADDRESSSED THE PROPOSED DESIGN. THESE DRAWINGS ARE INTENDED FOR THE SITE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW CRITERIA REQUIREMENTS. THESE DRAWINGS ARE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY ONLY.

11/28/22  
PRELIMINARY  
NOT  
FOR CONSTRUCTION

|     |          |      |  |  |  |                     |
|-----|----------|------|--|--|--|---------------------|
| NO. | REVISION | DATE |  | PROJ. NO. 3423<br>DWG. BY RM2<br>APPR. BY ERIC DAHLGREN<br>REF: 0-3423-0-1 | COVER SHEET<br>AMANI CENTER<br>DATE 10/31/2022 | SHEET<br><b>G-1</b> |
|-----|----------|------|--|--|--|---------------------|



**QUESTIONS?**

**AKERCHER@AMANICENTER.ORG**

**503-366-4005**