

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=53622>

DOVES Presents Report, Request Funding

(KNZA)--The Brown County Commission Monday received an update from the domestic violence service organization DOVES regarding the Atchison-based agency's activities and a request for funding.

Executive Director Debbie Duncan told Commissioners the Hiawatha and Horton Police Departments, along with the Brown County Sheriff's Office, all reported an increase in domestic violence incidents and arrests in 2013. The Hiawatha Police Department saw the biggest jump, up 36 percent over 2012.

Duncan says the organization last year sheltered a total of 37 adult women and 23 dependent children in their safe shelter, which is a record. That follows a restructuring of the DOVES program last year.

Besides operating a safe shelter, Doves also operates a crisis hotline, and Duncan says 180 calls have been answered to date

For the fiscal year ending in 2015, DOVES provided nearly 18,000 service hours to assist victims and more than 19-hundred bed/nights/shelter units.

Duncan requested continued financial support from the county. The county has been providing \$1,500 to the organization annually.

Many Signals Communications