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2011-339

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SARPY COUNTY, NEBRASKA

RESOLUTION APPROVING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE GREATER
OMAHA ATTENDANCE AND LEARNING SERVICES INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-104 (Reissue 2007), the County has the power to do all acts in relation to the concerns of the County necessary to the exercise of its corporate powers; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §23-103 (Reissue 2007), the powers of the County as a body are exercised by the County Board; and,

WHEREAS, LB 463 directed the Superintendent's of Douglas and Sarpy County to create a plan to improve student attendance, in collaboration with several county agencies. As directed, the 11 public school superintendants in Douglas and Sarpy County, led by Dr. Kevin Riley, created a plan; and,

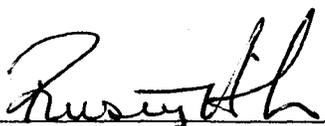
WHEREAS, the County of Sarpy desires to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with several agencies within the Omaha metropolitan area related to the Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services Initiative (GOALS), a system of truancy reduction, a copy of said MOU is attached hereto and incorporated herein; and,

WHEREAS, said MOU outlines the mission, guiding principles, communication, as well as other areas of agreement related to the GOALS team and the reduction of truancy within the Omaha metropolitan area, which said MOU is in the best interests of the citizens of Sarpy County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners that this Board hereby approves and adopts the MOU attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman of this Board, together with the County Clerk, is hereby authorized to sign on behalf of this Board the MOU and any other related documents, the same being approved by the Board.

The above Resolution was approved by a vote of the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners at a public meeting duly held in accordance with applicable law on the 18th day of October, 2011.


for Sarpy County Board Chairman Vice-Chairman

Attest:


County Clerk

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made on this September 20, 2011, by and between the following agencies:

Ellen Brokofsky, Administrator, State Probation (Probation), Nebraska State Capitol, Room 1207, Lincoln, NE 68509

Kerry Winterer, CEO, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (NDHHS), 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68509

Don Kleine, Douglas County Attorney (DCA), 1701 Farnam St., Omaha, NE 68183

Douglas County Board of Commissioners (Douglas County), 1819 Farnam St., Omaha, NE 68183

Alex Hayes, Chief of Police, Omaha Police Department (OPD), 505 So. 15th St., Omaha, NE 68102

Tim Dunning, Douglas County Sheriff, 156th & West Maple Road, Omaha, NE 68144

The Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County (Court), Room 600, Hall of Justice, Omaha, NE 68183

Lee Polikov, Sarpy County Attorney (SCA), 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046

Sarpy County Board of Commissioners (Sarpy County), 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68046

Jeff Davis, Sarpy County Sheriff, 8335 Platteview Rd., Papillion, NE 68046

Papillion Police Department, 1000 East First Street, Papillion, NE 68046

Bellevue Police Department, 2207 Washington St., Bellevue, NE 68007

Ralston Police Department, 7400 Main St., Ralston, NE 68127

Bennington Police Department, 11402 No. 156th St., Bennington, NE 68007

La Vista Police Department, 7701 So. 96th St., La Vista, NE 68128

The purpose of this MOU is to achieve the various aims and objectives relating to the Douglas/Sarpy County Superintendent's Plan to Improve Attendance, and to the Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services Initiative (GOALS). This document is intended to state a set of shared principles for development and furtherance of development of program specific intergovernmental agreements among the parties.

The principles, agreements and understandings set forth in this Memorandum are not intended to be contractual, are not binding on any party and may not serve as the basis for any assertion of liability against any of the parties. The parties agree, however, to work together in the true spirit of partnership

to ensure that there is a united visible and responsive leadership of the GOALS Initiative and to demonstrate financial, administrative and managerial commitment, to the extent possible, by means of "in kind" services and collaboration in seeking alternative funding.

This MOU sets forth a framework to enable local and state government departments and school districts within Douglas/Sarpy County to create a viable system of truancy reduction and to meet the needs of children and families.

This MOU builds on the interdependent relationships of all those child and family service systems seeking to achieve individual and community based outcomes.

This MOU will create and sustain strategic relationships to maximize and potentially increase existing resources to be used at the local level.

This MOU establishes a focused point of accountability for the success of cross-system work, known as the GOALS Initiative.

By signing this MOU, NDHHS, DCA, Douglas/Sarpy County, State Probation, OPD, Sheriff, other law enforcement agencies and Separate Juvenile Court within Douglas County recognize the shared efforts, in support of the Superintendents of Schools in Douglas/Sarpy County, to create and maintain a highly functioning system of truancy reduction and service provision for children and families, and the parties agree to the following Mission, Guiding Principles and Vision:

Mission

It is the Mission of the Parties to collaborate with the Superintendents of Douglas/Sarpy County and support their Plan to Improve Student Attendance.

Guiding Principles

We believe that education is important for the success of our children and community.

We believe that attendance at school is the single most important element to the student's ability to learn and be successful in school and life.

We believe that parents/adult caregivers have the greatest influence on children for attendance and academic success

We believe and acknowledge that within our community, parents/adult caregivers are occasionally challenged in meeting the needs of their children.

We believe that unmet needs of children and families can contribute to non-attendance to school.

We believe and recognize that there is a strong correlation between early truancy, continued academic and behavioral problems, eventual school dropout and delinquent behavior development.

We believe it is the responsibility of the community to support the children, parents/adult caregivers, and schools on attendance issues.

We believe that the GOALS Initiative, through the identification and elimination of system issues, early identification of students and families in need and the prompt delivery of cooperative, multiagency resources, can assist children in achieving school success.

We believe that the GOALS Initiative is a community resource that supports children.

Agreements

WHEREAS the above listed agencies desire to enter into an agreement in which these parties will work together to participate in the GOALS Initiative;

AND WHEREAS the establishment of a multidisciplinary collaborative is the most effective means to accomplish this purpose;

AND WHEREAS the parties are desirous to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between them, setting out the working arrangements that each of the partners agree are necessary to further the GOALS Initiative;

We agree as follows:

COMMUNICATION:

We agree to fully communicate both within agencies and among each other by:

- 1) Identifying and defining financial implications that arise from the GOALS Initiative service delivery model.
- 2) Communicating in a timely manner changes in funding and/or program design that are relevant to the GOALS Initiative service model.
- 3) Sharing information to the fullest extent possible, within the parameters of applicable regulations and respect for family privacy, in support of the adopted service model.
- 4) Developing common information-sharing protocols and utilizing internal records management protocols to respect each other's confidentiality mandates.
- 5) Conducting cross trainings among stakeholder staff to increase understanding of our various systems.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

We agree to foster accountability and sustain the process by:

- 1) Ensuring that the values and goals of the stakeholders are aligned with the MOU through annual plans.
- 2) Defining levels of involvement and evaluating and ensuring participation in the MOU and GOALS Initiative through inclusion of related responsibilities in appropriate position descriptions.
- 3) Ensuring that our agencies actively participate in the operationalization of the MOU, and service delivery agreements.

- 4) Participating in jointly designed or identified reporting and evaluation activities within current resources and submitting data within agreed-upon timelines.
- 5) Regularly reviewing administrative, funding, and service delivery alignments to ensure a comprehensive, seamless, and efficient service continuum.
- 6) Convening the GOALS Initiative Leadership Team no less than two times a year to review progress and further strengthen the agreement.
- 7) Clearly defining performance indicators, outcomes, and shared data within the GOALS Initiative, service delivery model.
- 8) Involving each other in system design and service delivery.

RESOURCES:

We agree to advocate collectively for funding, public policy, and agency practices aligned with the vision of the MOU by:

- 1) Identifying the existing continuum of resources prior to the deployment of resources.
- 2) Identifying gaps and overlaps in services.
- 3) Coordinating funding streams.
- 4) Supporting innovation.
- 5) Leveraging funds and agreeing to not summarily shift costs.
- 6) Enhancing service delivery.

PROBLEM SOLVING:

We agree to support a process of collaborative problem solving by:

- 1) Resolving systems issues at the lowest level possible.
- 2) Referring issues to the MOU Leadership Team for resolution only after all other avenues have been explored.
- 3) Defining a process for conflict resolution within the GOALS Initiative.
- 4) Understanding and recognizing the risks of each organization relative to the GOALS Initiative and its service delivery model.
- 5) Supporting and standing by service agreements within the GOALS Initiative.
- 6) Cooperatively resolving shared funding issues at the MOU level.

We recognize that the GOALS Initiative is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of youth at-risk for non-attendance, academic failure and school dropout. In furtherance of this Initiative we additionally agree:

To participate in a multidisciplinary GOALS Initiative Leadership Team as established by the Superintendents of Douglas/Sarpy County by providing no less than 1 member, with administrative/decision making authority to represent each agency in this MOU.

To provide personnel to participate in regular multidisciplinary teams to assist in screening, assessment and monitoring of youth whose attendance has become problematic and/or has reached the threshold for referral for prosecution.

To provide "in kind" personnel, where needed, and as available, to conduct case management services to children and families. In addition, such personnel will provide service referrals and service provision for families and youth.

To provide communication between and among all agencies involved with GOALS Initiative youth.

To provide evidence based services only.

To collect data from a variety of sources to best assist the individualized needs of families.

To communicate with schools regularly to determine where school based services may need support and/or change.

To regularly monitor data to assure quality programming and that needs of youth are being met. Data collection and study will also address service deficits among the collaborative agencies in order to improve performance.

To provide Individualized service plans for children and families.

To co-locate MOU participant personnel, so as to best achieve the success of the GOALS Initiative, to maximize the service provision to families and support this MOU and the Superintendents Plan to Improve Attendance.

DEFINITIONS:

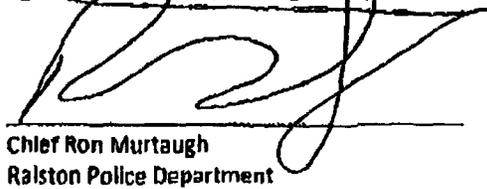
- A. System of Care:** A method of delivering supports that help children and adolescents with complex needs and their families to get the full range of services in or near their homes, schools, and communities. These services must be tailored to each individual child's and family's physical, emotional, social, developmental, and educational needs. Local organizations work in teams to provide services.
- B. Evidence-Based Approach:** Prevention and intervention services that are based on the most current information from generally accepted social or scientific research and evaluation studies.
- C. Culturally Competent:** Cultural competency is a process that requires individuals and systems to develop and expand their ability to know about, be sensitive to, and have respect for cultural diversity. The result of this process should be an increased awareness, acceptance, valuing and utilization of and an openness to learn from general and health-related beliefs, practices, traditions, languages, religions, histories, and current needs of individuals and the cultural groups to which they belong. Essential to cultural competency is appropriate and effective communication that requires the willingness to listen and learn from members of diverse cultures and provision of services and information in appropriate languages, at appropriate comprehension and literacy levels, and in the context of individuals' cultural health beliefs and practices.

The purpose of this MOU is to achieve the various aims and objectives relating to the Douglas/Sarpy County Superintendent's Plan to Improve Attendance, and to the Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services Initiative (GOALS).

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This MOU sets forth a framework to enable local and state government departments and school districts within Douglas/Sarpy County to create a viable system of truancy reduction and to meet the needs of children and families.

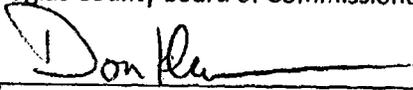
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Chief Ron Murtaugh
Ralston Police Department

10-27-11
Date

The following Partners support the goals and objectives of the Superintendents' Plan to Improve Student Attendance and of the Greater Omaha Attendance and Learning Services Initiative (GOALS)

Douglas County Board of Commissioners

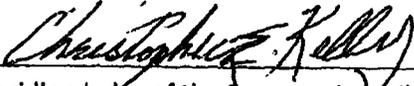


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10-26-2011

Don Kleine, Douglas County Attorney

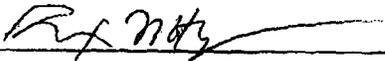
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10/5/11

Presiding Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court for Douglas County

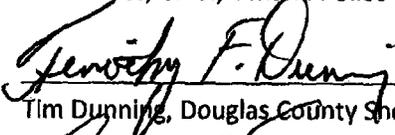
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10-28-11

Alex Hayes, Chief, Omaha Police Department

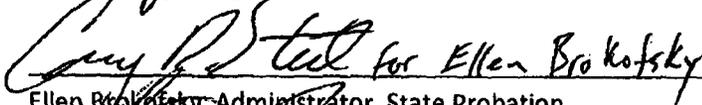
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10/12/11

Tim Dunning, Douglas County Sheriff

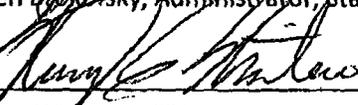
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10-7-11

Ellen Brokofsky, Administrator, State Probation

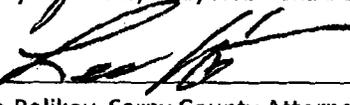
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10/26/2011

Kerry Winterer, CEO, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

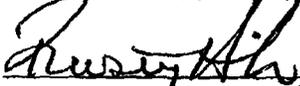
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Sept 29, 2011

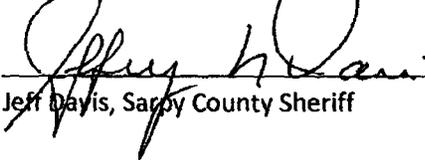
Lee Polikov, Sarpy County Attorney

Date



Date

Sarpy County Board of Commissioners



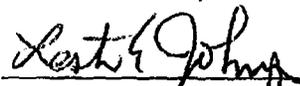
Sept 29, 2011

Jeff Davis, Sarpy County Sheriff

Date

Ralston Police Department

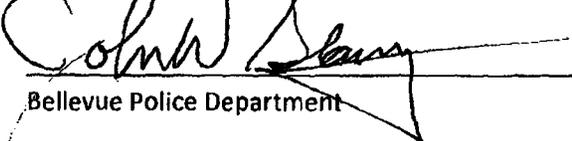
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10-24-2011

Bennington Police Department

Date



10-12-11

Bellevue Police Department

Date

Leonada Hank

Papillion Police Department

Robert Laust

LaVista Police Department

10/7/11

Date

10/7/11

Date



Office of the County Attorney

Hall of Justice · 1210 Golden Gate Drive · Suite 3147
Papillion, NE 68046-2889
(402) 593-2230 · FAX: (402) 593-4359

L. Kenneth Polikov
Sarpy County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

October 13, 2011

TO: Sarpy County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Nicole O'Keefe, Deputy Sarpy County Attorney
RE: Memorandum of Understanding related to Truancy Reduction in
the Omaha metropolitan area

LB 463 directed the Superintendent's of Douglas and Sarpy County to create a plan to improve student attendance, in collaboration with the various agencies within both counties. As directed, the 11 public school superintendants in Douglas and Sarpy County, led by Dr. Kevin Riley, created a plan.

As a part of the plan, a GOALS team was created. This group will meet on a weekly basis and review attendance issues in an effort to resolve the problem prior to the mandatory referral to the County Attorney at 20 days. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed to better define the structure and purpose of this team, and Sarpy County is being asked to sign said MOU.

The principles set forth within the MOU are not intended to be contractual, but the document is intended to state a set of shared principles for development and furtherance of the development of program specific intergovernmental agreements among the parties.