

Since 1991

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SOLUTIONS

A non-profit center for Integrated Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, Recovery & Research

Ricardo D. Torres, O.T. Board President Jose G. Gonzalez, LCSW. Chief Executive Officer Primarily Funded by: HHSC & SAMHSA 5510 N. Cage Blvd. • Stes. A, C, E, N, & R • Pharr, TX 78577 Phone: (956) 787-7111 • Fax: (956) 781-2233 www.bhsst.org

## Memorandum of Understanding

Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas (BHSST) and <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> agree to collaborate in an effort to increase the effectiveness and visibility of prevention efforts focusing on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) abuse and behavioral health issues. BHSST's goal is to educate the communities with expectations to reduce substance use and abuse among youth, young adults and adults.

Our commitment to this collaboration will consist of the following:

- 1. BHSST will provide a campus-based Youth Prevention (YP) Specialist at selected schools.
- 2. The Prevention Specialist will coordinate services with the designated <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> personnel. Services will be rendered according to the agreed upon schedule and protocol for providing <u>Youth Prevention Universal PA (Positive Action)</u>, <u>Youth Prevention Selective TND (Towards No Drugs)</u>, <u>Youth Prevention Selective SFP (Strengthening Families Program)</u>, <u>Youth Prevention Indicated PA (Positive Action)</u>, <u>Youth Prevention Indicated SFP (Strengthening Families Program)</u>, and/or Youth Prevention Selective PA (Positive Action) services.</u>
  - a. BHSST Prevention Specialists will work with <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> school counselor/social worker to arrange days, times, classroom, and group space for in-person prevention services and/or web-based platform for virtual prevention services.
  - b. For Universal Prevention Services, school personnel will provide the Prevention Specialist with access to the classrooms and rosters. For Selective Prevention Services, school personnel will provide all referrals to the Prevention Specialists. Students referred will be identified by school personnel as residing in a "colonia", at high risk of truancy, or other identified risk factors. For Indicated Prevention Services, school personnel will provide all referrals to the Prevention Specialist. Students referred will have been identified by school personnel as having experimented with ATOD or have other risk factors but do not meet criteria for a substance use disorder.
  - c.BHSST Prevention Specialists and school personnel will communicate to one another any changes in the agreed upon schedules.
  - d.In accordance with <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> and BHSST policies and state laws, BHSST Prevention Specialists will communicate any student needs identified in curriculum and provide appropriate referrals.
  - e. At no time will the Prevention Specialists solicit students for the program.
- 3. <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> will provide adequate space and security for BHSST staff to complete the curriculum sessions, alcohol/tobacco/other drug related presentations and positive alternatives, and information and referral services to participants. For virtual prevention services, <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> will facilitate access for students to utilize computer/tablet equipment and broadband services.

- 4. <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> understands this agreement to be inclusive of the following YP program services:
  - All evidence based program curriculum services are implemented twice per week for a minimum of 30 minutes per session with a group size of 12-28 students, contingent on program requirements.
  - Dissemination of information related to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use/abuse/addiction prevention, trends and resources affecting individuals, families and communities.
  - Presentations, positive alternatives activities and participation in health fairs and/or any school event providing opportunities for ATOD prevention efforts with youth, young adults and adults.
    <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> understands all prevention efforts provided by BHSST Prevention Specialists are a minimum of 30 minutes in duration.
- BHSST and <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> will cooperate fully to ensure non-duplication of services. Cooperative efforts include:
  - Lasara Independent School District agrees to collaborate only with BHSST for the implementation of any curriculum services indicated in section #2.
  - Lasara Independent School District and BHSST personnel will collaborate to coordinate specific topics/focus of ATOD related education activities to be rendered by a BHSST Prevention Specialist that do not duplicate education efforts being implemented by school personnel.
- 6. BHSST staff will follow BHSST policies and adhere to <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> policies and procedures when conducting services at <u>Lasara Independent School District</u>.
- 7. All BHSST staff will maintain confidentiality requirements in accordance to Federal Confidentiality rules (42CFR 2).
- Funding for these services is provided by a grant from the Texas Health and Human Services
   Commission and no fees or cost will be incurred by <u>Lasara Independent School District</u> in association
   with Youth Prevention program services.
- This collaborative agreement will be in effect on September 01, 2019 through August 31, 2023 and
  reviewed annually. Either party may terminate without cause by giving the other party written notice of
  termination.

Alejos Salazar
Superintendent of Schools

10 /14 / 2 020

Date

Jose G. Gonzalez, LC8W
Chief Executive Office

Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas

Lasara Independent School District

Date 09/23/2020