

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
BASTROP ISD
AND
COMMON THREAD, A PROJECT OF BCFS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

The following agreement relates to service delivery for at-risk youth and their families between authorized representatives of Bastrop ISD and Common Thread, herein referred to as the “parties” to this agreement.

A. GOAL

The parties agree that the goal of this agreement is to facilitate and enhance a community partnership that addresses the needs and is beneficial to the youth and families of Bastrop ISD.

B. ASSESSING THE NEEDS OF THE YOUTH AND FAMILY

The parties agree that Bastrop ISD will identify and refer at-risk youth and families within their service parameters and provide to Common Thread appropriate demographic information and Release of Information documents. Bastrop ISD will immediately refer all newly identified confirmed or suspected sex trafficking victims aged 24 and under to Common Thread’s 24/7/365 referral number, 1-888-8THREAD (1-888-884-7323). Upon receipt of referral and confirmation of capacity, a Common Thread advocate will arrive at the agreed location within 90 minutes to activate immediate intensive case management. Common Thread will provide on-going advocacy with any enrolled client, with the goals of consistency for the child and the avoidance of duplicated services. In the event that Common Thread is ultimately unable to confirm a suspected trafficking victim has been trafficked, the program will refer the client to appropriate resources prior to case closure.

C. CONFIDENTIALITY

The parties agree that all information will be held confidential regarding participants and release such information only with a signed parental consent or in cooperation with law enforcement investigations in compliance with local and state laws and statutes.

D. DISCLOSURE AND REPORTING

The parties agree that criminal history searches shall be conducted by Common Thread for any and all of its employees, interns, volunteers or contractors providing goods or services that may have direct unsupervised access to at-risk youth under the jurisdiction of and referred by Bastrop ISD. In addition, Common Thread shall provide documentation confirming that fingerprint-based searches of criminal information databases maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and by the State of Texas have been completed within two years prior to the date of the most recent contract for services. Any of Common Thread employees, interns, volunteers or contractors with a disqualifying criminal history (Appendix A) shall be prohibited from having direct unsupervised access to juveniles referred by Bastrop ISD. Common Thread shall report to Bastrop ISD within 24 hours of learning of an employee’s, intern’s, volunteer’s or contractor’s arrest or criminal indictment that has direct unsupervised contact with any juvenile referred by Bastrop ISD. Any person who witnesses, learns of, receives an oral or written statement from an alleged victim or other person with knowledge or who has reasonable belief as to the occurrence of alleged abuse, neglect, exploitation, death or other serious incident involving a juvenile, but that is not alleged to involve an employee, intern, volunteer, contractor, or service provider of a program or facility, shall be reported to law enforcement or to other appropriate governmental unit.

E. LICENSING Not Applicable for Common Thread

The parties agree that Common Thread shall provide Bastrop ISD with documentation confirming that Common Threads’ license is currently in good standing with the licensing entity and shall not provide services under this agreement unless the license is in good standing. Immediate notification will be made to Bastrop ISD in the event that the licensing entity suspends Common Threads’ license. All activities with youth referred by Bastrop ISD will be suspended.

F. FACILITY

The parties agree that if the youth and family are unable to arrange for transportation to the Common Thread, Bastrop ISD agrees to provide adequate and private space at the client's school to facilitate the administration of services from Common Thread to the identified youth and their families.

G. COMMUNICATION

The parties agree that Common Thread will provide monthly progress summaries as requested to Bastrop ISD for those youth referred from Bastrop ISD that are under order of Bastrop ISD. After receiving Consent for Services and a Release of Information from the client, BASTROP ISD social workers will complete the New Client Registration form and schedule the student for services. BASTROP ISD social workers will give the Common Thread Advocate the completed registration, Consent for Services, and Release of Information forms, as well as inform the therapist of the time they have scheduled the student. If necessary, BASTROP ISD social workers will inform the student's teacher that the therapist will be pulling the student from their class to meet with Common Thread Advocate. BASTROP ISD social workers and Common Thread Advocate will work collaboratively with regards to any safety plans set up for a student. Bastrop ISD will provide continuous feedback on partnership with Common Thread with Common Thread leadership to ensure continuous quality improvement.

H. DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES

Common Thread is available to provide education to staff or parents, as needed, regarding Sex Trafficking 101 and Common Thread Programming. The parties agree to periodically meet and review the sufficiency of community resources for at-risk youth and their families to discuss how additional community resources could be developed.

I. TIMEFRAME

This agreement is effective from the date signed until renewed or updated. Either party may cancel the agreement 30 days following written notice to the other party.

J. POINTS OF CONTACT

BCFS HHS Common Thread:

Irasema Resendez, National Partnerships Manager

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210-801-7159

Delkys Conde, State Director

Dc1414@bcfs.net

210-508-4176

Bastrop ISD:

Bastrop ISD

Date



Sonya Thompson
Executive Director
BCFS HHS Common Thread

09/18/2019

Date

APPENDIX A

As used in this agreement, a disqualifying criminal history is a history that includes any of the following:

- A. A felony conviction against the laws of this state, another state, or the United States within the past ten (10) years;
- B. A deferred adjudication for a felony against the laws of this state, another state, or the United States within the past ten (10) years;
- C. A current felony deferred adjudication, probation or parole;
- D. A jailable misdemeanor conviction against the laws of this state, another state, or the United States within the past five (5) years;
- E. A deferred adjudication for a jailable misdemeanor against the laws of this state, another state, or the United States within the past five (5) years;
- F. A current jailable misdemeanor deferred adjudication, probation or parole; or
- G. The requirement to register as a sex offender under Chapter 62 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.