

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Special
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(A) Report Only Recognition

Presenter(s):

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

(B) Action Item

Presenter(s): MR. GILBERTO GONZALEZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE REQUEST TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE WINTERGARDEN WOMEN'S SHELTER, INC. AND THE EAGLE PASS ISD.

(C) Funding Source: Identify the course of funds if any are required

(D) Clarification: Explain any question or issues that might be raised regarding this item.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

WHEREAS, Eagle Pass Independent School District and the Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. are collaboratively partnering to provide presentations on bullying, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking for district staff, parents and students; and

WHEREAS, the abovementioned partners have agreed to continue in a collaborative agreement in which Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. and the Eagle Pass Independent School District will assist in the process of referring students and parents needing intervention; and

WHEREAS, the partners herein desire to have a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding is to be effective March 8, 2017.

I. Description of Partner Agency

The Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. (WWS) based in Dimmit County, Texas was established in 1994 to serve a four county area including Dimmit, Zavala, Maverick and La Salle counties, adjacent to those served by BCFS HHS, to provide shelter and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Before it became a full-service shelter, the community had little awareness of the issues involved in domestic violence. Further, local law enforcement had no well-defined protocols for handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases. In 1997, WWS became OVW (Office on Violence Against Women) grant recipient and was able to establish collaborative relationships with law enforcement officers, prosecutors, social service providers and other agencies that came in contact with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The agency also built stronger relationships with the local school districts and the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas.

WWS provides safe shelter for female and male victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, serving approximately over 4,000 persons each year amongst the four counties. WWS also provides outreach and direct victim services in the counties Zavala, Maverick and La Salle. The agency also provides assistance with the legal process as it relates to protective orders, school based education and awareness activities and this includes special presentations during National Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention in February. Other special presentation also includes the following: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention in April and Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention in October. WWS also ensures outreach education, training on complex issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, rape and stalking to law enforcement, the judiciary, and other social service agencies, and the community at large. WWS is a member of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA).

The long-range goals of the collaboration are:

1. To develop complimentary services and operations between WWS and Eagle Pass ISD that provide increased safety and benefits to residents in the rural counties we serve,

particularly victims of domestic violence, bullying, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

2. To establish services for victims and families of domestic violence in Dimmit, Zavala, Maverick and La Salle Counties.

The critical goals are:

1. To identify, assess and appropriately respond to victims of bullying, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking in rural areas.
2. To increase the safety and well-being of victims of violence in rural areas or rural communities by dealing directly and immediately with bullying sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking occurring in rural areas or rural communities; and working with victims to prevent reoccurrences of bullying, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and/or stalking.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the partners as follows:

Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. will serve as the lead agency for the Memorandum of Understanding, and will provide services at Eagle Pass ISD out of Maverick County. Eagle Pass ISD will provide referrals to the Sexual Assault Liaison for possible victims seeking interventions and/or all other services available to them through WWS.

Project services will include:

1. Provision of direct services through presentations, assessment, crisis intervention, safety planning and case management victim advocacy.

III. Timeline

Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding commence on March 8, 2017 through March 7, 2018.

IV. Commitment to Partnership

1. The collaboration service area is Maverick County.
2. The partners agree to collaborate and provide direct services to victims of bullying, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
3. We, the undersigned have read and agree with this Memorandum of Understanding, Further, we have reviewed the proposed project and approve it.

By: _____

Gilberto Gonzalez
Superintendent
Eagle Pass ISD

Date: _____

By: _____

Erica Bustamante
Executive Director
Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc.

Date: _____