



**Memorandum of Understanding
Between the following:**

Browning Public School District #9 (BPS)
And
The Blackfeet Tribal Health System (BTHS)
(Collectively, the Parties)

I. PURPOSE

- A. The Parties recognize that the members of the Tribe that suffer from many persistent health disparities and addressing these disparities will necessarily involve the reservation education system
- B. The Parties also recognize that the education process will improve with an enhanced tribal health system on the reservation located in Browning and its outlying communities
- C. To address a reservation-wide school health program, the Parties have fostered a working relationship based on the principles memorialized in this document and intend to establish additional cooperative activities and projects that will improve health and education
- D. The Parties will develop and implement a program that provides the schools with **medical, dental, nutrition, and mental health/substance use** consultation and services through direct services by health professionals and telehealth consultation as necessary. The Parties will collaborate with other health professionals (school nurses, Good Medicine Program, Indian Health Service, among others) to improve health and education process
- E. The Parties intend to identify additional approaches to the provision of health services not only to the students but also those who are supporting them in the school system
- F. This project will periodically collect data for evaluation purposes of the different funding agencies such as Montana Healthcare Foundation, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders, among others. Clinical data will be collected appropriately and stored in a manner consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Montana State Laws and regulations

II. THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HAVE THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

A. Browning Public Schools (BPS) will:

- a. Participate with the Blackfeet Tribal Health System (BTHS) in generating new ideas for projects and programs that will improve healthy behavior, healthy outcomes and healthy life choices
- b. Provide access to a suitable environment where appropriate and available, for a fee if applicable for the purpose of conducting health education, clinical care, telehealth care, outreach or public health, and their evaluation

- c. Participate in developing and promoting disease awareness, prevention, intervention and early detection with the Blackfeet reservation communities
- d. Partner with other health-related organizations to develop programs that can address school health and wellness related to the needs of the reservation
- e. Continue to foster opportunities to collaborate with outside academic centers to enhance faculty and health service delivery. Support the coordination of telehealth equipment usage and maintenance when and where applicable
- f. Assist in a timely communication with parents/legal guardians concerning identified health issues with their children and to obtain appropriate parental consents
- g. Communicate and network with clinics for arranging referral visits with the different health clinics of the Blackfeet Tribal Health System
- h. Grant access to school student records for the purpose of maintaining and updating patient health records
- i. Provide Blackfeet Tribal Health System (BTHS) entry to Browning Public Schools (BPS) with a key to designated secured area to perform medical evaluations. Allow secure access of the facilities' internet to allow BTHS the ability to perform telehealth visits

B. Blackfeet Tribal Health System (BTHS) will:

- a. Establish mechanisms best suitable to communicate with parents concerning health services provided to children and to get the appropriate "consent to treat" form signed for authorization to render care
- b. Employ licensed and credentialed health professionals and support staff to provide appropriate health services for BPS
- c. Participate in generating new ideas for projects and programs that will impact health disparities
- d. Develop and promote health awareness, prevention, intervention and early detection programs
- e. Provide health education opportunities for the school faculty in childhood disease prevention
- f. Maintain appropriate policy and procedure manuals including guidelines concerning program measurement and quality assurance
- g. Ensure that maintenance of a capable business office functions with appropriate internal controls, revenue reporting, and other fiscal support activities
- h. Assist academic partners in working with BPS in the delivery of video-linked remote education and health service delivery as well as support outreach efforts and outreach personnel when applicable
- i. Support and or fund, as resources are available, in purchasing and installing equipment and supplies to maximize the impact of health promotion and disease prevention activities

- j. Develop a plan to provide transportation for referral off campus to the different clinics of Blackfeet Tribal Health System

Legal Enforceability


This MOU is intended to provide a working relationship between the Parties and BPS and is not a legally enforceable document. Both Parties and BPS agree to work in good faith to implement health-related activities subject to the terms of this MOU.

They acknowledge that they have adequate liability insurance applicable to their offices, each employee, and agents while acting within the scope of their employment. Therefore, BTHS and BPS hereby assume any risks of personal injury and property damage attributable to the negligent acts of omissions by their employees.

SIGNED AND EFFECTIVE DATES SET BELOW

Garland Stiffarm, Chief Executive Officer,
Blackfeet Tribal Health Systems

Date



Rodney Gervals Jr., Chairman, Blackfeet
Tribal Business Council

9-10-2024
Date

Superintendent
Browning Public Schools

Date

Effective date:
