

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

December 2012

Between the Carlton County Public Health and Human Services and TXT4Life Partners

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby made and entered into by and between Carlton County Public Health and Human Services and **Duluth Public Schools**, in an effort to facilitate planning for development and expansion of the TXT4Life Project, funded by a federal Garrett Lee Smith grant beginning in August of 2011. **TXT4LIFE** builds on existing multi-agency collaborations to strengthen suicide prevention efforts which serve 22,000 school-aged youth who live in rural and reservation areas of Northeastern Minnesota. ***TXT4LIFE will begin in Carlton County, expand to Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin, Itasca, Koochiching Counties and Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Red Lake, and Bois Forte/Nett Lake tribal reservations, and then continue across Minnesota.*** As estimated, 1400 individual advocates and service providers who deal with youth in crises are targeted to benefit from the training and collaboration made possible through this grant and its associated MOU partners. An estimated 1500 youth are targeted to benefit from direct services (prevention/intervention) made possible through this initiative.

The primary mission of TXT4LIFE is to reduce the incidence of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts for NE MN youth 1) Increasing access and utilization among youth of the Minnesota suicide prevention crisis response system by updating infrastructure to include text-messaging to encourage help-seeking behavior, 2) Improving local suicide prevention planning/services and increase protective factors and reduce risk factors among youth through implementation of culturally appropriate, evidence based youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies, 3) Increasing gatekeeper awareness and understanding of youth suicide, willingness to intervene, and skills for appropriate intervention and referral. TXT4LIFE strategies include:

- Expansion of local public awareness efforts utilizing social media marketing (i.e. texting)
- Strengthen collaborative infrastructure within the NE Minnesota region
- Development of partnerships in NE Minnesota to expand suicide prevention efforts
- Combine efforts of the student originated "Life is for Everyone" (LIFE), Department of Public Health, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE), and Carlton County Suicide Prevention Taskforce
- Ensure sustainability of youth suicide prevention programs.
- Provide leadership and informational training for consumer and community stakeholders
- Continue to provide training for key gatekeepers in recognizing and responding to suicide risk.

Governance Structure for this initiative is provided by Carlton County Public Health and Human Services (CCPHHS), Human Services Inc./Crisis Connection (HSI) and Carlton County Children and Family Services Collaborative (CCCFSC). The CCPHHS takes the lead in implementing TXT4LIFE strategies. The CCCFSC will take the lead on grant management and the fiscal accountability for the project. HSI takes the lead on providing access and utilization of the Minnesota suicide prevention crisis response system/national hotline to include text-messaging. There is a TXT4LIFE advisory committee with representatives from additional organizations for implementation of this project. Overall, direction for this initiative will be provided through Dave Lee, Director of Carlton County Public Health and Human Services. Donna LeKander, Carlton County Collaborative Director, who is supervised by Dave Lee, will provide overall grant management and fiscal accountability. Meghann Condit and Sierra Beckman, project co-coordinators, are the primary facilitators of public awareness, training for this project, and convening meetings relative to TXT4LIFE implementation. The contributions and commitment of this partnership is to support the attended goals of this project as highlighted above and the contributions outlined below.

1. Partner Information:

Organization Type

School Government Agency Mental Health Provider Reservation
 Nonprofit Business Other: _____

Service Area

Aitkin Carlton Cook Lake Itasca St. Louis
 Koochiching State National Other: _____

2. Identity of Partner Organization:

Partner Institute/School Name: Duluth Public Schools

Primary Contact: RON LAKE

Title: CLIMATE COORDINATOR

Address: 215 N 1st Ave East

Duluth, MN 55802

Email: RONALD.LAKE@DULUTH.K12.MN.US

Telephone: 218-336-8700 (2014)

3. Partner Contributions and Commitments Description:

Relative to the implementation of TXT4LIFE, **Duluth Public Schools** agrees to:

- 1) Support public awareness, education, and outreach campaigns targeted to middle and high school students
- 2) Allow display of signage, posters, and marketing materials advocating use of TXT4LIFE
- 3) Encourage staff, student, and community participation in QPR and ASIST trainings and project participation
- 4) Allow for school staff to participate in all applicable data collection pertinent to Garrett Lee Smith Cross Site Evaluation processes for the TXT4LIFE Project as needed
- 5) Work together to achieve stated project goals and to sustain the project

Relative to the implementation of TXT4LIFE, **Carlton County Public Health and Human Services** agrees to:

- 1) Convene all planning and implementation meetings for this initiative
- 2) Offer train the trainer to 28 people; assist in offering trainings and recruiting participants for QPR
- 3) Offer train the trainer to four people; assist in offering trainings and recruiting participants for ASIST
- 4) Support region-wide public awareness and outreach campaigns targeted to its secondary student population of 7 - 12 grade students
- 5) Develop marketing materials advocating use of TXT4LIFE
- 6) Encourage community awareness and capacity in suicide prevention through providing resources and information
- 7) Facilitate and participate in all applicable data collection pertinent to Garrett Lee Smith Cross Site Evaluation processes for the TXT4LIFE Project

We, the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU. Further, we have reviewed the TXT 4 Life project and approve it.

Authorized partner signature: _____

Print Name: Dave Lee

Title: Director

Agency/Organization: Carlton County Public Health & Human Services

Date: _____

Authorized partner signature: WCHanson

Print Name: Bill HANSON

Title: CFO

Agency/Organization: Duluth Public Schools

Date: 12/17/12