

# **Consortium Agreement for the North Iowa Therapeutic Instructional Consortium**

This 28E Agreement for Joint and Cooperative Action (“Agreement”) is made and entered into pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 28E, by and between **Four Oaks Family and Children’s Services (“Four Oaks” or “Host”)** the Forest City Community School District (“Forest City CSD” or “Fiscal Agent”) and the **Belmond Klemme Community School District**, an Iowa public school district (“Member District”).

**Whereas**, the Host is willing to jointly administer the programs and activities known as the North Iowa Therapeutic Instructional Consortium (the “Consortium”) with Member Districts with costs determined as stated in this Agreement; and

**Whereas**, this Agreement ensures that the Member Districts have within their programming a continuum of services for students experiencing series behavioral or mental health changes; and

**Whereas**, this is a Consortium where the Member Districts are contracting with an outside educational provider (Four Oaks) to provide instructional services; and

**Whereas**, Iowa Code section 28E.3 provides, in part, that the board of directors of two or more school districts may by agreement jointly administer any power, privilege or authority each Member District is capable of exercising individually; and

**Whereas**, Iowa Code section 280.15, subsection 1, provides in part that the boards of directors of two or more school districts may by agreement jointly share services of school personnel, acquire and share classrooms, facilities, and equipment,

**Therefore**, the Member Districts agree to establish a jointly administered instructional program in the form of a Consortium as authorized by Iowa Code under the following terms and conditions:

## **I. Purpose**

The North Iowa Therapeutic Instructional Consortium will be hosted by Four Oaks. A facility in Forest City, Iowa as rented by Four Oaks will be the site of the program. This Agreement describes the cooperative arrangement between the consortium Member District. This Agreement describes certain terms and conditions to participate in the Consortium.

Only school districts who are members of the consortium (“Member Districts”) are permitted to have students attend. Access to the program for a student based on an IEP team decision. Specific entrance criteria will be provided by the contracted provider (Four Oaks). Each Member District is responsible for the educational outcomes of its own resident students.

This Agreement provides a means by which the Member Districts may jointly and cooperatively provide greater educational opportunities for students through the offering of educational programs and the collective operation of facilities for student use by exercising powers, privilege, and authority and proceeding to participate in and help administer the consortium program pursuant to the joint powers of Iowa Code Chapter 28E.

## **II. Program Description**

The North Iowa Therapeutic Consortium serves students in Grades K-12 who have needs identified in an IEP associated with an identified mental health diagnosis. The instructional program is a contracted service with Four Oaks of Iowa. Each Member District will arrange for the transportation to the Consortium location in Ventura, Iowa for their resident students. The program calendar will follow the Host's calendar in regard to start and end dates and school breaks.

## **III. Name and Organization**

This Consortium shall consist of Member Districts and the Host District, but said Consortium shall not be considered a separate legal entity for the purpose of Iowa Code Chapter 28E.

## **IV. Administrative Fiscal Agent**

Forest City CSD will serve as the Fiscal Agent for the purpose of all costs and expenses associated with participation in the Consortium, pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The Fiscal Agent shall receive funds, handle student, staff, and financial accounting, make timely payments to Four Oaks, and provide timely itemized billings to Member Districts as well as to cover incidental administrative costs such as clerical and business services, postage, and telephone.

## **V. Educational Costs**

Each Member District will be billed 50 percent of the estimated yearly cost for each student enrolled in the program as a prepaid installment. **For the 2024-2025 school year the estimated yearly cost is \$36,522.00 for student tuition per seat and \$366.00 for administrative fees per seat to the fiscal agent for a total of \$36,888.00 per seat.** \$18,444.00 dollars per seat will be billed by the fiscal agent and due to the fiscal agent by November 30, 2024. Final year end billing will be billed by the fiscal agent and due to the fiscal agent by May 31, 2025. The costing method will take into account the actual student cost. Member Districts will be given billing invoices that separate special education costs from general education costs. Costs are based on the following factors:

1. Each Member District is considered a contract holder with Four Oaks of Iowa and will have equal responsibility for contract costs to Four Oaks.
2. Student days will be considered when billing costs to Member Districts based on the estimated yearly costs.

3. The Consortium is made up of fourteen (14) student seats of which seven (7) seats are for the Elementary classroom and seven (7) seats are for the Secondary classroom.. Member Districts are as follows:

District	Elementary Classroom	Secondary Classroom	Total Seats
Belmond-Klemme	0	1	1
Lake Mills	1	0	1
North Iowa	0	1	1
Clear Lake	1	1	2
Garner-Hayfield-Ventura	2	1	3
Central Springs	1	1	2
Forest City	2	2	4
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>

4. **The Belmond-Klemme Community School District commits to 1 seat for the 2024-2025 school year for a total cost of \$36,888.00**

## VI. Lease and Related Costs

Each Member District understands and agrees that Four Oaks may lease a facility in connection with the purpose and program of the North Iowa Therapeutic Consortium by entering into a separate lease agreement with the owner of the facility. Each member of the consortium will be billed by the Fiscal Agent an equal amount of rent to cover utilities, equipment, and insurance. **The estimated amount will be \$2,602.29 dollars for the year** (*\$1,344.75 for July plus \$1,533.75 for months August to July = \$18,216 divided by 7 Districts*). Leases will remain equal for all consortium members regardless of the number of contracted seats. If the lease cost exceeds the \$2,602.29 dollars each Member District will be billed equally to cover the costs. If the lease cost does not exceed \$2,602.29 and there is a positive balance, refunds will be equally made to member districts. The lease cost shall be expended from the appropriate fund as authorized by law.

Member Districts each agree to pay a set Consortium membership reservation cost to the Host for the portion of costs related to their respective students' enrollment in the program. This membership cost shall be paid to the Host by each Member District regardless of whether the Member District actually assigns a student to the program. The membership costs will be replaced by the actual cost for providing educational services to each Member District's students with IEPs as defined in this Agreement. Billing will be done twice per year.

## VII. Contracted Service

Each member of the consortium will be considered an equal holder of the contract with Four Oaks of Iowa to provide educational services.

## **VIII. SBRC**

The consortium will be allowed to apply with the Iowa Department of Education for School Budget Review Committee ("SBRC") approval. This approval will allow the consortium to pay administration costs from Special Education Funds.

## **IX. Independence Retained**

It is expressly understood and agreed to by the Member Districts that nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to create a partnership, association, or other affiliation or like relationship between the Member Districts, it being specifically agreed that their relationship is and shall remain that of independent parties participating in a cooperative mutual relationship in the Consortium. In no event shall a school district be liable for the debts and obligations of another school district.

Unless specifically provided in this Consortium Agreement, the Agreement shall not be construed as a delegation of authority by the board of education of any Member District, or the powers or responsibilities conferred upon them by Iowa Code.

## **X. Consortium and Program Operation**

The Administrators of the Consortium shall have all powers, privileges and authority necessary and incidental to manage the affairs of the Consortium and to work with each other to manage the program. The Administrators shall also carry out the intent and purpose of this Agreement, not inconsistent with law or this Agreement. These powers and responsibilities shall include general administrative duties which may arise from time to time, including, but are not limited to:

- A. Setting policy and direct administrative regulations for the Consortium.
- B. Evaluating and preparing required reports on the effectiveness of Consortium and the program.
- C. Providing curriculum ideas for program offerings.
- D. Assessing the education needs and interests of the students within their respective district.
- E. Providing long-range planning for the Consortium and program.
- F. Setting and evaluating program participation numbers and qualification guidelines.
- G. Discussing collective purchases for supplies, capital projects, etc. on behalf of the Consortium.
- H. Meeting periodically, as needed, to discuss issues associated with the program and Consortium.

- I. Other reasonable and necessary administrative duties.

## **XI. Board Approval**

Consortium membership shall be approved by the Board of Education of each Member District. Failure of a Board of Education to approve the Consortium Agreement shall remove that Member District from Consortium membership and deny its students access to the program.

## **XII. Student Meals**

The Forest City CSD will provide meals to students in attendance at the NITC daily for as long as the location of the consortium classroom is physically located in Forest City, Iowa. Member Districts will provide the Forest City CSD with any Free/Reduced Meal applications for processing and reporting. Any students not eligible for Free meals will be responsible for reimbursement of meal costs by the member district to the Forest City CSD and will be billed by Forest City CSD no more than monthly and no less than bi-annually.

## **XIII. Administration**

The Consortium shall be governed and administered by the superintendents of each participating school district (collectively, "The Administrators").

## **XIV. Property**

It is not contemplated that the Consortium will acquire, hold or dispose of any real property as part of this undertaking. Existing equipment, supplies, furniture, and textbooks or instructional aids and materials of each Member District may be used in the Consortium program.

The Host District may enter into leases or sublease arrangements for a building to house the Program. Said lease or sublease arrangements may be payable from the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Fund (PPEL) or other legally authorized funds.

## **XV. Amendments**

The provisions of this Agreement may be added to, amended or modified by a unanimous vote of the Administrators of all Member Districts. All other Consortium business not pertaining to amending this Agreement shall be decided by a simple majority of the Administrators of all Member Districts.

## **XVI. Termination**

Upon termination of the Agreement, all assets owned by Member Districts shall be returned to the Member District. Identifiable expenditures shall be returned to the District of original ownership. Any remaining assets, equipment, supplies, textbooks, and furniture purchased jointly on a prorated basis shall be divided by the same

proration, subject to depreciation. Such items will be physically divided. If not possible, one district shall compensate the other district for their prorated share of the depreciated value.

If assets are insufficient to pay all liabilities, members shall be assessed in such proportion.

A Member District may be involuntarily terminated at the end of the school year by a majority vote of the Administrators for failure to pay timely or otherwise not abiding by the terms of the Agreement.

## **XVII. Duration**

Subject to the rights of amendment, modification, or termination, this Agreement shall be in full force and in effect from the date of execution until **June 30, 2025** and shall automatically renew every July 1 for one-year period unless participation is terminated by a Member District by providing written notice to all other Member Districts no later than **March 31, 2025**. Application of Laws, Rules and Regulations

This Agreement and all policies, rules, and regulations adopted by the Administrators to govern the operation of the Program shall comply with the laws of the State of Iowa and with rules and regulations of the Iowa Department of Education. Any provisions of this Agreement in conflict therewith shall be null and void and the remainder of the Agreement shall be binding upon all parties.

All Member Districts agree to cooperate as needed to assure that all required services and responsibilities are provided by the members and that the educational programs and activities are operated in compliance with all applicable laws.

## **XVIII. Binding Effect**

This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the Member Districts hereto and their successors and assigns.

## **XIX. Execution in Counterparts**

This Agreement may be simultaneously executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

## **XX. Severability**

If any clause, provision or section of this Agreement shall, for any reason, be held illegal or invalid by a court or administrative agency, the illegality or invalidity of such clause, provision or section shall not affect any of the remaining clauses, provisions or sections hereof and this Agreement shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid clause, provision or section had not been contained herein.

In case any agreement or obligation contained in this Agreement is held to be in violation of law, then such

agreement or obligation shall be deemed to be the agreement or obligation of the members, to the full extent permitted by law. Failure of a member to enter into this Agreement in accordance with Iowa law or inability of a member to be a party to this Agreement shall not affect the validity or enforceability of this Agreement as to all other members.

## **XXI. Dispute Resolution**

In the event the Member Districts are unable to agree to the interpretation or operation of this Agreement, the fiscal agent shall request that a mediator knowledgeable in Iowa school district matters be appointed by the Chief Administrator of the AEA in which the Host is located to assist in negotiated resolution to the dispute. The costs of mediation (if any) will be paid by the Member Districts involved in the dispute.

### **Host (Four Oaks Family and Children's Services)**

\_\_\_\_\_ President Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Fiscal Agent District (Forest City Community School District)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Board President Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Board Secretary Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Member District (Belmond Klemme Community School District)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Board President Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Board Secretary Date \_\_\_\_\_