

**Consider Approval of Contract with The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas
December 18, 2023**

1. Background:

The district and the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas (CBCST) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for School-Based Grief Support Programs. The district has received grant funds to help support the services for our students, staff and community.

2. Process:

Per Board Policy CH (Legal) (Local), the Board must approve purchase of goods or services valued at or above \$50,000. The MOU is attached for your reference.

3. Fiscal Impact:

If approved, the contract will provide grief support programs for our students, staff, and community. The contract services will be paid from grant funds received to provide support after the tragedy in the amount of \$120,000.

4. Recommendation:

Approve the contact to The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas in the amount of \$120,000.

5. Action Required:

Action required

6. Contact Person:

Pam Bendele

Scope of Work- Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas, 2024

Subcontractor Information

Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas

205 W. Olmos Drive

San Antonio, Texas 78212

Marian Sokol, Ph.D., CEO-Office: 210-736-4847 x 226- msokol@cbcst.org

Sylvia Montemayor, CPA-CFO: 210-736-4847 x 229 smontemayor@cbcst.org

Marcella Hayes, LPC-S- Director of Programs: 210-736-4847 x 228 mhayes@cbcst.org

Children's Bereavement Center-Uvalde

319 N Getty Street

Uvalde, TX 78801

Brenda Faulkner, Ed.D., LPC—Uvalde Center Director- 830-333-9833 x301-bfaulkner@cbcst.org

Project Name: Grief Support for Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (UCISD) Children, Families, and Educators Impacted by Violence

Background of Organization:

Mission: To foster healing for grieving children and youth, their families, and the community.

"The Center" is a 501-c-3 nonprofit agency supported by donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations and offering grief support services at no cost to families. In existence since 1997, Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas is among the largest child grief centers in the United States, and unique in its staffing with licensed counselors trained in child grief and trauma and offering therapeutic services focusing on expressive arts.

Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas established a long-term facility in Uvalde in 2023, after responding to the 2022 shooting at Robb Elementary. That Center is at the 319 N. Getty Street address noted above. Our clinicians have been working with UCISD in grief recovery for the past 18 months.

Place of Performance: On UCISD campuses, at the Uvalde Children's Bereavement Center office, or at designated sites to include St. Philip's Episcopal Church and El Progreso Memorial Library.

Timeline/Duration of Services: January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

Deliverables- under the leadership of Dr. Brenda Faulkner:

During the contract period the Uvalde Center's team of three (3) licensed professional counselors, along with an intake and outreach specialist will offer the following services, as determined appropriate by the Director of Recovery Services for UCISD, Nicole Henderson, LPC:

- Counselor Consultations;
- Intake and Assessments to include Bio-psycho-social profile, and assessment for risk of self-harm;
- Community Outreach to inform UCISD families of the services available;
- Individual Counseling for Grief and Trauma;
- Teacher Peer Support Groups and Family Peer Support groups;

- Grief Camp (s) for Children and Teens;
- Education and Training for UCISD faculty and staff;
- “Smart & Art Saturday” options for families;
- Teacher Appreciation events; and
- Furnishing of mobile unit onsite to expand counseling space options.

Children’s Bereavement Center staff will maintain confidentiality of referred students and information according to HIPPA, FERPA and other applicable privacy laws.

Children’s Bereavement Center staff will properly refer students reporting abuse or intent to self-harm, or harm others to district/campus staff who assume responsibility for safety of students.

Program Reporting:

On a monthly basis, clinicians will track consultations as well as client intakes and assessments, and report the number of counseling sessions for each client. The number of sessions will be documented in the treatment plan based on the initial assessment. Peer support group participation will be tracked and reported. Clinicians will ensure that informed consent forms are obtained from the parent/guardian, if the student is under the age of 18 years, or from the student if they are 18 years or older.

Clinicians may work with under aged unaccompanied youth (youth not living with parents or legal guardians). The definition for psychological services is defined by Chapter 32 of the Texas family Code. Eighteen (18) years of any will be considered as an adult.

Participation in peer support groups and grief camps will also be tracked and reported. Trainings provided to faculty and staff and outreach activities targeting UCISD families will also be documented. Program information will be reported within 10 days after the end of each month to the UCISD Director of Recovery Services.

Amount of Contract: \$120,000.

Terms of Payment:

Children’s Bereavement Center will submit quarterly invoices for payment to UCISD CFO Pamela Bendele. Reimbursements will cover periods of work from January through March, and from April through June, 2024.

Approved by:

Ashely Chohlis, Superintendent

Date



Marian Sokol, CEO, Children’s Bereavement Center
of South Texas

12/12/2023

Date



Children's Bereavement Center OF SOUTH TEXAS

Memorandum of Understanding for School-Based Grief Support Programs Between CBCST and Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District

The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas is a non-profit provider of grief support programs in South Texas. The mission of CBCST is to foster healing for grieving children and youth, their families, and the community.

This Memorandum of Understanding is in response to a request from Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District (UCISD) for grief support services for students and is written to outline the roles and relationships of these two entities related to working together to provide support of the school's students and their families.

PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS

UCISD School Point of Contact: Nichole (Niki) Henderson, Director of Recovery Services
CBCST CEO: Maria Sokol
CBCST Chief Program Officer: Marcella Hayes
CBCST Uvalde Program Director: Brenda Faulkner

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

Uvalde Consolidated ISD agrees to:

- Arrange for adequate space to provide confidential grief support groups for students.
- Provide a central point of contact for coordinating services and dates to staff, students and their families. Additionally, school counselors, social workers, and other district staff agree to provide support if needed to obtain consent for services in the event that CBCST staff is unable to contact referred students.
- Maintain confidentiality of referred students and information according to HIPAA, FERPA, and other applicable privacy laws.
- Maintain communication with CBCST Program Director to address issues and concerns as needed.
- CBCST staff will properly refer students reporting abuse or intent to harm self or others to district/campus staff who assume responsibility for safety of student as well as well follow up care for students.
- Provide school level information for the following data points: student behavioral referrals, student attendance/absenteeism, and student progress/promotion within 2 weeks of request.





Children's Bereavement Center OF SOUTH TEXAS

CBCST agrees to:

- Obtain written parental or guardian consent for participation for each child before a student can participate in individual counseling or join the grief support group to include on-site and virtual support platforms as indicated.
- Obtain parent or guardian consent on the "Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District Parent Consent and Waiver of Liability and Permission for Students to Receive Outside Counseling Services on District Property" form prior to interacting with students on District property.
- Obtain a UCISD-issued badge before interacting with students on District property and wear it at all times while on District property.
- Provide services to UCISD students during electives and free periods only.
- Provide a licensed professional counselor or supervised staff member with trauma and grief expertise with the qualification and experience necessary to provide psychotherapeutic support to students and family members as requested.
- Provide grief activities (including curriculum and supplies) that are age-appropriate and consistent with best practices.
- Maintain confidentiality of referred students and information according to HIPAA and other applicable privacy laws.
- Maintain effective working relationships with campus staff.
- Provide treatment referrals for clients to the CBCST and other community providers.
- Provide appropriate information to authorized school personnel regarding referral and placement of students.
- Act in concert with campus staff to properly report and develop action or care plans related to students reporting abuse or intent to harm self or others in accordance with state reporting guidelines and campus protocols.

To the furthest extent of the Law, both parties agree to hold harmless each agency, its Board members, staff, volunteers, and agents from any liability, loss, or damage they may suffer as a result of claims, demands, costs of judgments against them or arising out of the activities to be carried out pursuant to the obligations of the agreement. CBCST and Uvalde Consolidated ISD acknowledge that any said loss or damage resulting from negligence or willful malfeasance is excluded from this agreement to hold harmless.





Children's Bereavement Center OF SOUTH TEXAS

This MOU is valid through the 2023-2024 school year. This MOU will be reviewed annually and may be terminated by either party by providing written notice to the other party of a decision to terminate.



Signature
Marian Sokol, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer
Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas

8/7/23

Date



Signature
Gary Patterson, Interim Superintendent
Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District

8/15/23

Date

