

## MEMO

**To:** Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent of Oak Park Elementary Schools District 97  
Board of Education Members, District 97

**From:** Carolyn Newberry Schwartz, Core Team Member, Oak Park Homelessness Coalition

**Cc:** Lynda Schueler, Executive Director Housing Forward

**Date:** October 13, 2017

**Subject:** Data Sharing Agreement for the purpose of referring families to receiving supportive services

Dr. Kelley, I am writing to you in my role as a member of the Core Team of the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition to provide some background information to the attached Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) and to request its consideration at the November 14 meeting of the District 97 Board of Education and approval by the Board at the meeting on November 27, 2017.

Over the past three years, the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition has been working to address issues and improve services for people – adults and children—without a permanent home. The Coalition is comprised of more than 30 institutions including the school districts, social service agencies, local government, businesses and individuals. Last year, the group prioritized strengthening access points to housing and supportive services in order to make homelessness rare, brief and a one-time occurrence. The schools are key access points to services for families with children.

Recent student enrollment reports by District 97 show that there were 59 students who met the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homeless during the 2016-2017 academic year and 101 students the previous year. Ensuring these children and their families receive supportive services that will help to stabilize their living conditions is a priority we share. This data sharing agreement between Housing Forward and District 97 enables District 97's Registrar and other District 97 personnel to refer to Housing Forward families with children enrolled in District 97 who have indicated that they are homeless (according to the standard established by the McKinney-Vento Act) or that they are in unstable housing.

Lynda Schueler and I have worked with Michael Arensdorff to adjust District 97's DSA template for the purpose of providing Housing Forward with the contact information of families who have given the necessary authorization to share their information. Attorneys have reviewed the document and we are now seeking board approval. We are thrilled that this service connection will be strengthened for children and their families. We appreciate your support of this effort and the time that Mr. Arensdorff has provided to get this done.