



SUKAPI LODGE – Mental Health Center

P.O. BOX 866, BROWNING, MONTANA 59417
210 US Highway 89 W
PHONE (406) 338-3200

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BROWNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND SUKAPI LODGE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

The Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) are **Browning Public Schools** and **Sukapi Lodge Mental Health Center** (collectively referred to as the “Parties”).

It is mutually understood and agreed upon by and between the Parties that the following terms of this MOU shall apply:

I. Purpose: The purpose of this MOU is to establish roles and define responsibilities of the Parties to develop and implement a comprehensive school mental health system (CSMHS) that utilizes the strengths and expertise of school and community-partnered professionals. CSMHS are defined as school-community partnerships that provide a multi-tiered system of mental health supports (MTSS) to support students, families and the school community. “Mental health services” include activities, services and supports that address social, emotional, and behavioral well-being of students, including substance use.

II. Roles and Responsibilities. The Parties agree that the following roles and responsibilities will apply to the Parties’ relationship.

1. The Parties shall establish well-defined roles and responsibilities of team members (with structures in place to avoid duplication of efforts);
2. The Parties shall cooperate in data sharing, and develop and adhere to protocols for the protection of sensitive information and compliance with all applicable privacy laws;
3. The Parties shall engage in data-based decision making; and
4. The Parties shall develop protocols for the provision of seamless services and supports across tiers, integration of mental health and other academic supports and effective referral processes.

III. Services and Supports.

1. This MOU shall govern the following tiers of services and supports:

Tier 1 - Mental health promotion services and supports (Tier 1) are mental health-related activities, including promotion of positive social, emotional, and behavioral skills and wellness, which are designed to meet the needs of all students regardless of whether or not they are at risk for mental health problems. These activities can be implemented school-wide, at the grade level, and/or at the classroom level. Tier 1 Services and Supports include, but are not limited to:

- Universal mental health screening;
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities;
- School climate activities;

- Positive behavioral expectations and rules/Classroom management;
- Bullying prevention;
- Restorative Practices;
- Mental health literacy for students;
- Mental health literacy for families/ca;
- Mental health literacy for teachers/school staff; and
- Teacher/staff consultation to promote mental health of all students.

Commented [ET1]: Was this supposed to read “ca”?

Tier 2 - Selective services and supports (Tier 2) to address mental health concerns are provided for groups of students who have been identified through needs assessments and school teaming processes as being at risk for a given concern or problem. When problems are identified early and supports put in place, positive youth development is promoted and problems can be eliminated or reduced. Sometimes these are referred to as mental health “prevention” or “secondary” prevention services. Tier 2 Services and Supports include, but are not limited to:

- Referrals will be made to Sukapi Lodge by the school counselor or nurse;
- Progress monitoring of students identified as “at-risk” and those receiving services;
- Social skills training/coaching;
- Group therapy for students identified as at-risk of developing mental health problems; and
- Teacher/staff consultation for students identified as at-risk of developing mental health problems.

Tier 3 - Indicated services and supports (Tier 3) to address mental health concerns are individualized to meet the unique needs of each student who is already displaying a particular concern or problem and displaying significant functional impairment. Sometimes these are referred to as mental health “intervention” or “tertiary” or intensive services. Tier 3 Services and Supports include, but are not limited to:

- Progress monitoring of students identified with mental health problems and those receiving services;
- Individual treatment for students with mental health problems;
- Group treatment for students with mental health problems;
- Family therapy to support students with mental health problems;
- Psychiatric evaluation;
- Telehealth services will be available through the school telehealth room which will connect with a Sukapi Lodge provider;
- Sukapi Lodge will coordinate with the schools for transportation;
- Case management;
- Teacher/staff consultation for students identified with mental health problems and those receiving services;
- Peer support/navigation services for students identified with mental health problems and those receiving services;
- Family peer support/navigation support services for families of students identified with mental health problems and those receiving services; and

- Facilitate transitions to and from community agencies and programs (e.g., mental health providers, psychiatric hospitals and day programs, juvenile services).
2. For all of above services and supports, the Parties shall utilize evidence-based services and supports,¹ as available. When evidence-based interventions are not available for the intended population, selected interventions should be based on best practices and within the applicable standard of care and should be evaluated for program impact.

IV. Data Collection, Reporting, and Protection.

1. The Parties shall collect and report data that documents:
 - Clinician productivity; program and intervention impact on student/school psychosocial and academic functioning; and student/family satisfaction and engagement.
2. The Parties shall ensure the complete confidentiality of any and all identifying student and family information gathered in the performance of this MOU. The information gathered, used and developed shall not be provided to any other party without the express written approval of individual(s) authorized to give consent for release of information.

V. Compliance with Applicable Law. The Parties shall comply with all applicable tribal, federal, state, and local laws and regulations required of community mental health providers, including, but not limited to, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

VI. Responsibilities of Browning Public School System. Browning Public School System agrees to:

1. Identify school(s) for service that demonstrate readiness and a commitment to hosting a community mental health provider to support a multi-tiered system of mental health support (MTSS);
2. Identify district and school points of contact to facilitate successful integration of community mental health provider into school(s) and to address any concerns;
3. Provide confidential space in school(s) that includes access to a locked file cabinet and mechanism for communicating with families and other providers (e.g., phone, computer, internet access); and

¹ * Evidence-Based Services and Supports are programs, services, or supports that are based directly on scientific evidence, have been evaluated in large scale studies and have been shown to reduce symptoms and/or improve functioning. For instance, evidence-based services and supports are recognized in national evidence-based registries, such as the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development, and Institute of Education Sciences (IES) What Works Clearinghouse (WWC). A full continuum of evidence-based services and supports within a school includes mental health promotion, selective prevention, and indicated interventions.

4. Facilitate inclusion and active participation of community partners in school mental health teams that utilize best practices in teaming, including but not limited to:
- Well-defined roles and responsibilities of teams and team members, with structures in place to avoid duplication of efforts;
 - System to evaluate existing team structures, with existing team continuation and new establishment only as necessary;
 - Overarching school shared purpose and shared goals ACROSS teams;
 - Unique goals for distinct teams;
 - Teams and team members understand and support each other's purpose and work;
 - Teams and team members have a process/procedure to ensure frequent and consistent communication; and
 - Teams and team members address any confidentiality barriers to facilitate regular information sharing across and within teams.

VII. Disputes. This MOU represents a collaborative agreement between Sukapi Lodge Mental Health Center and Browning Public Schools and is entered into in good faith. If there are circumstances which arise in the future concerning this MOU, both Parties agree to engage in timely discussion and problem solving at the earliest opportunity and at the lowest level possible. If the Parties are unable to resolve problems that may arise, the Parties may agree, but are not required to, engage in mediation to resolve the dispute.

VIII. Duration and Termination. This MOU shall be effective upon the signature of Blackfeet Tribal HESS Chairman, Sukapi Lodge Mental Health Center Director, and Browning School District authorized officials. It shall be in force from **August 2025** until terminated by the Parties. The Parties may immediately terminate this MOU upon written notice provided to the other party at the address listed below:

Browning Public School
129 1st Ave SE
Browning, MT 59417

Sukapi Lodge Mental Health Center
210 US Highway 89 West
Browning, MT 59417

IX. Entire Agreement. This MOU contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter set forth herein. This MOU may only be modified with the written consent of both Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their authorized representatives.

BROWNING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By: Superintendent

Date: _____

BLACKFEET TRIBAL HESS

By: HESS Chairman

Date: _____

SUKAPI LODGE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

By: Director

Date: _____