

# Memorandum of Understanding

Between the following:

**Browning Public School District # 9**  
(Collectively, the "**Reservation Schools**")

and

The **Blackfoot Tribe**, and **Southern Peigan School Health (SPSH)**  
(Collectively, the "**Parties**")

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This document hereby supports the operation and expansion of a comprehensive school based health care program on the Blackfeet  
Reservation  
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## I. PURPOSE

- A. The Parties recognize that the members of the Tribe that suffer from many persistent health disparities and addressing these disparities will necessarily involve the reservation education system.
- B. The Parties also recognize that the education process will improve with an improved school health program on the reservation, to be located at **213 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW, Browning Montana**. Other site locations will be established and located within the boundaries of the school district where the services will be performed.
- C. To address a reservation wide school health program, the Parties have fostered a working relationship based on the principles memorialized in this document and intend to establish additional cooperative activities and projects that will improve health prevention and education.
- D. The Parties will develop and implement a program that provides the schools with **Medical, Dental, Nutrition, Mental Health** and **Substance Abuse** consultation and services through direct services by health professionals, and telehealth consultation as necessary. The parties will work with other health providers (*i.e. School Nurses, Good Medicine Program, Alta-care, etc.*), the Indian Health Service, and academic centers to improve the total education process.
- E. The parties intend to identify additional approaches to the provision of health services prevention and educational programming and will solicit the support of the parents/legal guardians and the community members in improving the education system.
- F. This project will periodically collect data for evaluation purposes through its funding agency Montana Health Care Foundation and for the use in the solicitation of additional resources. Clinical data will be collected appropriately and stored in a manner consistent with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and Montana State Laws and regulations.

## II. THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HAVE THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

### 1. The Reservation School(s) will:

- a. Participate with Southern Piegan School Health, and the Blackfeet Tribe in generating new ideas for projects and programs that will improve healthy behavior, healthy outcomes and healthy life choices.
- b. Provide "Access to" a suitable environment, where appropriate and available for a fee if applicable, for the purpose of conducting health education, clinical care, Telehealth medical care, Telehealth mental health care, outreach efforts, and their evaluation.

- c. Participate in developing and promoting disease awareness, prevention, intervention and early detection to Blackfeet reservation communities and tribal members.
- d. Partner with other health-related organizations to develop programs that can address school health and wellness related to needs on the reservation.
- e. Continue to foster opportunities to collaborate with outside academic centers to enhance faculty and health service delivery. Support the coordination of telehealth equipment usage and maintenance *when and where applicable*.
- f. Provide executive oversight and guidance in the joint school health programs and participate in program evaluations.
- g. Assist in the timely communication with parents/legal guardians concerning identified health issues with their children and to obtain appropriate parental consents.
- h. Allow communication with Administrative staff in arranging referral visits to Southern Piegan School Health (SPSH) and relaying student record information. Grant access to school student records for the purpose of maintaining and updating patient health records.
- i. Provide Southern Peigan School Health (SPSH) with entry to the Browning High School facility, and with a key and/or FOB to designated secured areas to perform medical evaluations. Allow secured access to the facilities internet, to enable SPSH the ability to perform telehealth visits via the electronic health record system.
- j. Provide BPS Custodial services for any on-campus designated areas, ie. telehealth location.

**2. Southern Peigan School Health, and the Blackfeet Tribe will:**

- a. Establish mechanisms best suitable to communicate with parents concerning health services provided to children and seek to get the appropriate consent to treat packets signed for authorization in coordination with services.
- b. Employ licensed and credentialed health professionals and support staff to provide appropriate health services for BPS district campuses. (i.e. youth, BPS staff).  
***Staff hiring shall occur as sustainable funding becomes available.***
- c. Participate in generating new ideas for projects and programs that will impact health disparities in the school age population of the reservation.
- d. Develop and promote health awareness, prevention, intervention and early detection programs to our Blackfeet reservation communities and tribal members.
- e. Provide educational opportunities for school faculty and for the school population of the reservation in childhood disease prevention.
- f. Maintain appropriate policy and procedure manuals for the entire program including guidelines concerning program measurement and quality assurance.
- g. Ensure that maintenance of a capable business office functions with appropriate internal controls, revenue reporting, and other fiscal support activities.

- h. Assist academic partners in working with the Tribe and the Schools in the delivery of video linked remote education and health service delivery as well as support outreach efforts and outreach personnel *when applicable*.
- i. Support and/or fund, as resources are available, in purchasing and installing of equipment and supplies necessary to maximize the impact of health promotion and disease prevention activities in the reservation schools.
- j. Develop a plan to provide *transportation* for referral based students by the school nurse and/or other district staff to/from Campus sites to the School Health location (**213 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW**).

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**Schedule**

Each reservation school Superintendent (or designees), Southern Piegan School Health staff, and the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council HESS Chairman, Blackfeet Tribal Health CEO and a member of the Blackfeet Tribe Health Board shall arrange to meet **quarterly** during the academic school year. Additional meetings may be held as necessary for improvement of the School Based Health Care program.

**Legal Enforceability**

This MOU is intended to provide a working relationship between the Parties and is not a legally enforceable document. The Parties agree to work in good faith to implement the project subject to the terms of this MOU.

**The parties acknowledge that they have adequate liability insurance applicable to their officers, each employees, and agents while acting within the scope of their employment by the parties. Therefore, each party hereby assumes any risks of personal injury and property damage attributable to the negligent acts or omissions of the party and its officers, employees, and agents.**

**SIGNED BY THE PARTIES ON THE EFFECTIVE DATES SET BELOW**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Rebecca Rappold, Superintendent  
 Browning Public Schools

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 Date

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 SPHC School Health Administrator  
 Southern Peigan Health Center

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 Date

