



San Elizario ISD
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MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Trustees
From: Sandra Sanchez, CTE Administrator
Subject: UTEP Play Therapy with Dr. Shin and Dr. Dosal
Date: June 18, 2025

HISTORY:

As part of the Effective Advising Framework (EAF) Grant, our committee members contacted the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) College of Education to inquire about a training opportunity related to Play Therapy for school counselors. We were referred to Dr. Shin and Dr. Dosal, who provided the proposed Play Therapy training span of two days for both elementary and secondary levels:

- Day One will focus on theoretical instruction.
- Day Two will involve hands-on practice of Play Therapy techniques.

Additionally, Dr. Shin and Dr. Dosal have requested to conduct a research study with the participating counselors. The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of rural school counselors participating in the Play Therapy training. The research will be titled, *"Experiences of Rural School Counselors Working with Children through a Play Therapy Training,"* which will involve pre- and post-training interviews.

Some key points of the research:

- Participation is entirely voluntary.
- No student information or sensitive data will be collected.
- Participants will be asked to complete an online demographic questionnaire prior to the training.

The following documents have been submitted for review and approval by our district administration:

- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval
- IRB Letter of Collaboration
- Contract Services Agreement between Contractor and District
- Contracted Services Agreement for District Use

We are looking forward to this collaborative initiative.

The mission of the San Elizario Independent School District is to graduate students with innovative skills for 21st-century careers by focusing on academic and social skills, fostering transformative practices, and building community support through positive relationships between home and school.



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RATIONALE: With the support of the Effective Advising Framework Grant, our counselors will participate in an in-depth, two-day Play Therapy training led by Dr. Shin and Dr. Dosal from UTEP. This training will introduce a new perspective on supporting students through play-based therapeutic techniques. The therapy is designed for both elementary and secondary school counselors. The training aims to enhance our counseling services by equipping our counselors with expanded tools, strategies, and support systems that will improve the quality of care and support provided to our students.

BUDGET: Stipend paid through the Effective Advising Framework Grant = \$2,880

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the Play Therapy training conducted by UTEP's Dr. Shin and Dr. Dosal, designed for both elementary and secondary counselors. This training will enhance our counselors' ability to support students' social and emotional learning needs. The training will be fully funded through the Effective Advising Framework Grant.

For Approval? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, please check one: ☐ Presentation ☐ Report ☐ Information

Please check if applicable: ☒ Attachment Included

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