

Executive Summary: Partnership with Crusader Community Health and Proposed Agreement Extension

Introduction

This summary provides an overview of the ongoing partnership between Meridian School District #223 and Crusader Community Health. The Board of Education is asked to review and approve a second amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), extending the partnership for five years. This partnership provides essential medical and dental services to District students at no cost to the District.

Partnership Overview and Services

Crusader Community Health is a non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center that provides primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care services in northern Illinois.

- **Service Model:** The partnership operates on a "field trip" model, where the District provides transportation for students to a Crusader clinic at mutually agreed-upon dates and times.
- **Services Provided:** Crusader offers a limited scope of primary and preventive medical and dental care to all District students who desire the services.
- **Target Population:** The partnership is a valuable resource for students who have Medicaid, are underinsured, or have no insurance. Crusader handles all billing on a sliding scale and helps families obtain medical insurance.
- **Parental Consent:** Parental consent is required before any services are provided. Crusader staff also contacts parents as needed during a student's visit.

While the District feels the partnership has been underutilized, it remains committed to strengthening it, as there are students who could benefit from these services. Currently, Meridian is the only school district in Ogle County with this type of partnership with Crusader.

Agreement History and Proposed Amendment

The original Memorandum of Agreement between the District and Crusader was established on June 16, 2022. A first amendment subsequently extended the agreement through June 30, 2025.

The proposed Second Amendment seeks to further extend the partnership by modifying the "Term and Termination" section of the MOA. Key details of this amendment include:

- **New Term:** The agreement will be in effect from July 1, 2025, until June 30, 2030.
- **Termination Clause:** The existing termination clause is maintained, allowing either party to terminate the agreement with or without cause by providing at least ten (10) calendar days' prior written notice.
- **Execution:** The amendment has been signed by Crusader's President/CEO as of September 23, 2025.

Summary of Responsibilities

Crusader's Responsibilities:

- **Services & Personnel:** Provide medical and dental services using qualified, licensed, and certified personnel.
- **Billing & Fees:** Manage all billing and collection from third-party payors (e.g., Medicaid) or patients; the District has no financial obligations.
- **Records:** Maintain custody and confidentiality of all patient medical records, which are separate from school student records.
- **Insurance:** Provide general and professional liability insurance to cover its performance of services.

District's Responsibilities:

- **Transportation:** Provide transportation for students to Crusader's facilities free of charge.
- **Coordination:** Establish and maintain a planning team with Crusader representatives to arrange logistics, dates, and times for services.

Recommendation

The administration recommends the Board of Education consider the approval of the Second Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement, extending the valuable partnership with Crusader Community Health through June 30, 2030.