

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AGENDA**

<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> Special
-----------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

(A) Report Only Recognition

Presenter(s):

Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.

(B) Action Item

Presenter(s): MR. GILBERTO GONZALEZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Briefly describe the action required.

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON THE REQUEST TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE WINTERGARDEN WOMEN'S SHELTER, INC. AND THE EAGLE PASS ISD.

(C) **Funding source: Identify the source of funds if any are required.**

(D) **Clarification: Explain any question or issues that might be raised regarding this item.**



Serving Dimmit, La Salle, Maverick & Zavala Counties

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

WHEREAS, Eagle Pass Independent School District and the Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. are collaboratively partnering to provide presentations on bullying, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking for district staff, parents, and students; and

WHEREAS, the abovementioned partners have agreed to continue in a collaborative agreement in which Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. and the Eagle Pass Independent School District will assist in the process of referring students and parents needing intervention; and

WHEREAS, the partners herein desire to have a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding is to be effective April 1, 2015.

I. Description of Partner Agency

The Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. (WWS) based in Dimmit County, Texas was established in 1994 to serve four counties (Dimmit, Zavala, Maverick, and La Salle), adjacent to those served by BCFS HHS, to provide shelter and support to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Before it became a full-service shelter, the community had little awareness of the issues involved in domestic violence. Further, local law enforcement had no well-defined protocols for handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases. In 1997, WWS became OVW (Office on Violence Against Women) grant recipient and was able to establish collaborative relationships with law enforcement officers, prosecutors, social service providers and other agencies that came in contact with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The agency also built stronger relationships with the local school districts and the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas.

WWS provide safe shelter for female and male victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, serving approximately over 3,000 persons each year amongst the four counties. WWS also provides outreach and direct victim services in the counties of Zavala, Maverick, and La Salle. The agency also provides assistance with the legal process as it relates to protective orders, school based education and awareness activities and this includes special presentations during National Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention in February. Other special presentation also including the following: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention in April and Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention in October. WWS also ensures outreach education, training on complex issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, rape and stalking to law enforcement, the judiciary, and other social service agencies, and the community at large. WWS is a member of the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA).

The long-range goals of the collaboration are:

201 N. 5th St., Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834 Office: 830/876-9656 Fax: 830/876-9672
P.O. Box 1382, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834

1. To develop complimentary services and operations between WWS and Eagle Pass ISD that provide increased safety and benefits to residents in the rural counties we serve, particularly victims of domestic violence, bullying, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.
2. To establish services for victims and families of domestic violence in Dimmit and Maverick County.

The critical goals are:

1. To identify, assess, and appropriately respond to victims of bullying, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in rural areas.
2. To increase the safety and well-being of victims of violence in rural areas or rural communities by dealing directly and immediately with bullying sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and staling occurring in rural areas or rural communities; and working with victims to prevent reoccurrences of bullying sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the partners as follows:

Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. will serve as the lead agency for the Memorandum of Understanding, and will provide services at Eagle Pass ISD out of Maverick County. Eagle Pass ISD will provide referrals to the Sexual Assault Liaison for possible victims seeking interventions and/ or all other services available to them through WWS.

Project services will include:

1. Provision of direct services through presentations, assessment, crisis intervention, safety planning, and case management victim advocacy.

III. Timeline

Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding commence April 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016.

IV. Commitment to Partnership

1. The collaboration service area includes Dimmit and Maverick Counties.
2. The partners agree to collaborate and provide direct services to victims of bullying, domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.
3. We, the undersigned have read and agree with this Memorandum of Understanding, Further, we have reviewed the proposed project and approve it.

By: _____
Gilberto Gonzalez
Superintendent
Eagle Pass, ISD
Date: _____

By: _____
Martha A. Ponce, Esq.
Executive Director,
Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc.
Date: _____