

DRAFT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
Joliet Township High School District 204
AND
BELA Recovery
2025-2026

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to formalize an agreement between DISTRICT 204 District 204 and BELA Recovery to form a partnership to provide support for the school's efforts to address student substance use. The goal is to enhance and extend current staffing and initiatives in substance use prevention and intervention support services for students and their families.

2. MUTUAL INTEREST OF THE PARTIES: Adolescent substance use is a major public health problem. Early identification of use and early intervention is essential to prevent lifelong issues and problems. This partnership is of mutual interest to the parties because of both parties' commitment to today's youth and because providing such prevention initiatives and early intervention can enhance student social, emotional, and academic well-being and can save lives.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES: *The following paragraphs identify responsibilities of the organizations involved:*

BELA Recovery shall provide *DISTRICT 204* with professional clinical services in accordance with the purpose, terms, and conditions of this MOU and implementing arrangements, as appropriate. BELA clinicians are certified and insured and committed to the Illinois Ethics for Addiction Professionals which include ensuring confidentiality, HIPPA protections and mandated reporting.

BELA Recovery clinicians will provide the following professional clinical services supporting the Schools's Counseling Department:

I. Prevention and Early Intervention/Treatment Services (Funding provided by BELA Charities)

- 1.) presentations to students on prevention of substance use;
- 2.) assist in the identification of students struggling with substance use who might benefit from support services;
- 3.) screening utilizing an evidence based SBIRT (Screening and Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) program, Hazelden's evidence-based Teen Intervene program;
- 4.) assessing students identified as needing further evaluation for substance use disorder following SBIRT services;
- 5.) providing evidence-based on-site outpatient (Level 1.0) addiction treatment for students assessed as requiring that level of care, as needed.

II. Peer Support Services (Funding provided by SAC (Serenity Academy Chicago))

- 1.) developing and maintaining a weekly APG (Alternative Peer Group);
- 2.) developing student/alumni leadership to co-facilitate peer support activities.

b. DISTRICT 204 Responsibilities:

- (1) provide direction regarding the delivery of said services (e.g., identifying staff liaisons for coordination; clarifying reporting responsibilities);
- (2) provide space for the clinical and peer support services offered;
- (3) provide access to students and student information, as needed;
- (4) provide support for activities involving parents and families (e.g., space for meetings, refreshments, materials);
- (5) provide the use of school resources (e.g., gym, multipurpose rooms) for student and family activities.

4. FUNDING: *BELA Recovery* has secured two grants to be able to provide the services listed above at no cost to the school beyond the stated district responsibilities. The two funding sources are *BELA Recovery's* parent organization, *BELA Charities, Inc.* with funds designated for prevention and early intervention services, and *Serenity Academy Chicago (SAC)* for the establishment of an APG (Alternative Peer Group) in each of the district's two schools. Said funding will cover two professional clinicians for up to 12 hours each per week, as needed.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE: Schoolyear 2025-2026.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF AGREEMENT:

on behalf of DISTRICT 204



Date

8/29/25

on behalf of *BELA Recovery*

Date