



BLACKFEET NATION

P.O. Box 850, Browning, MT, 59417
Telephone: (406) 338-7521 / Fax: (406) 338-7530

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rodney Gervais, Jr. - Chairman
Shelly M. Hall - Vice Chairman
Patrick D. Armstrong, Jr. - Secretary
Lionel Kennerly, Sr. - Treasurer

BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

Rodney Gervais, Jr.
Shelly M. Hall
Patrick D. Armstrong, Jr.
Lyle Rutherford
Cleo Bullshoe Main
Everett Armstrong
Kristy L. Bullshoe
Iloff "Scott" Kipp, Sr.
Michael J. Comes at Night

RESOLUTION

Approving MOU with Browning Public School District #9 for Culture and Hope to Provide Services

No. 118-2025

- WHEREAS,** The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is the duly constituted governing body within the exterior boundaries of the Blackfeet Indian Nation pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws for the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation of Montana, 1935 and amendments thereof, and
- WHEREAS,** The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council has been organized to represent, develop, protect and advance the views, interests, health, education, welfare and resources of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and
- WHEREAS,** The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is empowered, pursuant to Article VI-Powers of the Council, Section 1(g) to manage tribal affairs in an acceptable and businesslike manner and in accordance with the administrative plan called the Plan of Operations, and
- WHEREAS,** The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council is empowered, pursuant to Article VI-Powers of the Council, Section 1(a) to negotiate with the federal, state and local governments on behalf of the tribe, Section 1(e) to manage all economic affairs and enterprises of the Blackfeet Reservation; and, Section 1(g) to manage tribal affairs in an acceptable and businesslike manner and in accordance with the administrative plan called the Plan of Operations, and

WHEREAS, Culture and Hope presented a Memorandum of Understanding for terms and understanding between The Blackfeet Tribe; Native Connections: Blackfeet Culture & Hope and the Browning Public School District #9 to collaborate on a Native Connections community-based suicide and substance abuse disorder (SUD) prevention strategic action plan and services, and

WHEREAS, This MOU will strengthen the relationship between the Blackfeet Tribe; Culture & Hope and BPS #9 to better support youth and community mental health and SUD prevention education, activities and family engagement, to which, each partner indicates a willingness to work towards suicide and SUD prevention through access to BPS staff, student and access to health class rooms, along with student clubs, sports, prevention classes and outreach at BPS school sport and student events, and

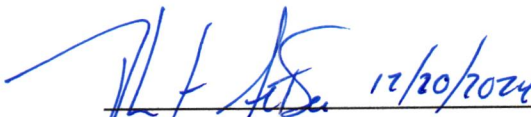
WHEREAS, The Blackfeet Tribal Business Council concurs and supports the MOU with the Browning Public School District #9 to support the services to students as defined in the terms of the MOU, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council hereby approves a Memorandum of Understanding Between The Blackfeet Tribe; Native Connections: Blackfeet Culture & Hope and Browning Public School District #9, to which is hereby attached and incorporated into this Resolution by reference.
2. That the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman in the Chairman's absence and Secretary of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council are hereby authorized to sign this Resolution and any other documents to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

ATTEST:

**THE BLACKFEET TRIBE OF THE
BLACKFEET INDIAN RESERVATION**



PATRICK D. ARMSTRONG, JR.
Secretary



RODNEY GERVAIS, JR.
Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council in a duly called noticed and convened Special Session assembled for business the 18th day of December, 2024 with Six (6) members present to constitute a quorum and by a vote of Six (6) For, Zero (0) Opposed and Zero (0) Abstained.



PATRICK D. ARMSTRONG, JR, Secretary
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

(SEAL)



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Blackfeet Tribe; Native Connections: Blackfeet Culture & Hope

And

Browning Public School District #9

This Memorandum of Understanding sets for the terms and understanding between The Blackfeet Tribe; Native Connections: Blackfeet Culture & Hope and the Browning Public School District #9 to collaborate on a Native Connections community-based suicide and substance abuse disorder (SUD) prevention strategic action plan and services.

Background

The risk factors for suicide and SUD among Blackfeet include historical trauma, cultural distress, generational negative boarding school experiences, substance abuse, hopelessness and isolation, poverty, unemployment, family history of mental illness/substance abuse, suicidal behavior of self or others, family disruptions, abuse and mental health stigma. Our culture will serve as backbone of healthful practices for the Blackfeet Community and community members are supported in all phases of health and healing. Our mission is twofold, promote the health and well-being of the Blackfeet people through culturally grounded knowledge and practice, and messages of hope. Help create more resources within the community and support those in need with continued care.

Purpose

This MOU will strengthen the relationship between The Blackfeet Tribe; Culture & Hope and BPS #9 to better support youth and community mental health and SUD prevention education, activities and family engagement. In doing so, each partner indicates a willingness to work towards suicide and SUD prevention through access to BPS staff, student and access to health class rooms. Along with student clubs, sports, prevention classes and outreach at BPS school sport and student events.

The purpose of access to BPS is to aid the campus, community partners and personnel in recognizing, responding, and referring a suicidal person through the proper channels by using this developed guideline with collaborating community systems of care* and to clarify roles and responsibilities of departmental personnel, professionals, parents/ guardians, and caregivers in relations to assisting a potential suicidal individual. For the purpose of this MOU, each partner indicates a willingness to work towards the prevention of suicide and SUD through Culture & Hope strategic action plan



Blackfeet Culture & Hope 2024



*Browning Public School Prevention Coordinator, Blackfeet IHS . Health, Sukapi Lodge Mental Health Center, Blackfeet Tribal Behavioral Health

GUIDING PRINCIPALS

- 1) The safety and well-being of our people and youth is the primary goal.
- 2) Educators and health professionals have a responsibility to intervene to protect all members from imminent harm, including self-harm.
- 3) When an individual discloses suicidal thoughts or there is a perceived risk for suicide or self-harm, exceptions to the normal requirements of confidentiality arise.
- 4) Information related to suicide risk should be shared with relevant professionals, parents/guardians, and caregivers, solely for the purpose of keeping the person at perceived risk safe.
- 5) Collaboration between community partners is the most effective way in preventing suicide. *

* SAMHSA Native Connections Procedure, Protocol, and policy development Toolkit 6/18/2019

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities as per Culture & Hope Strategic Action Plan:

- Share the Native Connections Suicide Prevention Plan with the Browning Public School District #9 to collectively collaborate to support the public school, community and providers on mental health and suicide prevention in the community.
- Capacity building and planning for the Blackfeet mental health support system.
- Increase community prevention education and outreach activities to move toward a more educated Blackfeet community and effective Blackfeet mental health support system.
- Culturally based youth activities and youth Council engagement.



Blackfeet Culture & Hope 2024



Reporting

Culture & Hope will be reporting the work and policy development to funding agency SAMHSA and the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council.

Funding

There are no funding requirements around this agreement.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from The Blackfeet Tribe; Native Connections Culture & Hope and Browning Public School District #9.

This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from The Blackfeet Tribe; Native Connections: Blackfeet Culture & Hope and Browning Public School District #9 and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.



Blackfeet Culture & Hope 2024



Contact Information

Partner name Browning Public School District #9
Partner representative Rebecca Rappold
Position Browning Public School District #9 Superintendent
Address 129 1st Ave SE, Browning, MT. 59417
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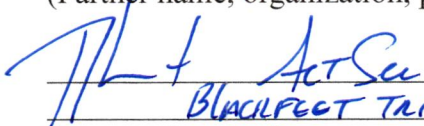
Partner Name Blackfeet Tribe; Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
Partner representative Rodney Gervais
Position Blackfeet Tribal Business Council Chairman
Address 640 All Chief's Rd, Browning, MT. 59417
Telephone (406) 338-7521
E-mail rodg@blackfeetnation.com

Partner name Native Connections: Culture & Hope
Partner representative Amber Williamson
Position Program Director
Address -
Telephone 406-270-1214
E-mail amberw@blackfeetnation.com

Date:

(Partner signature)

(Partner name, organization, position)


BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

Date: 12/20/2024

(Partner signature)

(Partner name, organization, position)

BLACKFEET TRIBE

Date:

(Partner signature)

(Partner name, organization, position)



Blackfeet Culture & Hope 2024