



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 6/11/24

Item Title: University of Texas Health Science X Action
Center at Houston School of Public Information
Health's/MEND and Brownsville ISD Discussion

BACKGROUND:

Since 2000 MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition...Do it!) is an evidence-based family program for overweight youth 6–13-year-old. MEND developed programs and services that empower children and their families to improve their health, improve their fitness and self-esteem. MEND offers quality programs with the flexibility to choose the model that is right for the families, it introduces the families into a healthy lifestyle and weight management program. MEND provides ongoing communication and support with the enrolled families, provides training to BISD staff/faculty, parents and board members upon request. It also provides all materials and teaching aids required to run program as well as all equipment. Brownsville ISD will provide the referrals to the MEND program, the space twice a week, two-hour (afterschool or Saturday) this would include space and access to a gymnasium or outdoor open play space area for exercise. Brownsville ISD will work with UT School of Public Health/MEND staff to set up a system of direct referrals in the program to encourage qualifying children and their families to participate in the free program.

FISCAL IMPLICATION

No cost to the district

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval to enter Brownsville ISD and UT School of Public Health/MEND into a memorandum of understanding, to improve fitness and a healthy life style to our Brownsville ISD students and families to begin June 12, 2024 to May 31, 2025.

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Alonso Guerrero/
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director
Alejandro Cespedes/
Recommended by: Asst. Supt./Exec. Dir./CFO
Miguel Salinas/
Reviewed by: Staff Attorney
Alejandro Cespedes/
Approved by: Chief Officer

Jesus H. Chavez
Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent

Roxanne Eckstein

From: Priscilla Lozano <plozano@808West.com>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 10:02 AM
To: Roxanne Eckstein
Cc: Minerva Almanza; Lea Ohrstrom; Miguel Salinas
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: MOU UT Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health's MEND and Brownsville ISD

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Brownsville ISD. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

Approved as to form.

Sincerely,

Priscilla

From: Roxanne Eckstein <reckstein@bisd.us>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 8:21 AM
To: Priscilla Lozano <plozano@808West.com>
Cc: Minerva Almanza <malmanza1@bisd.us>
Subject: FW: MOU UT Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health's MEND and Brownsville ISD

Ms. Lozano,

Just following up on status on this agreement. Please advise.

Thank you! Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (956) 698-6379.

Sincerely,

Roxy Eckstein

Roxanne Eckstein | Paralegal to Miguel Salinas | Staff Attorney | Phone: 956.698.6379 | Fax: 956.714.6400
Brownsville Independent School District | 1900 East Price Road, Suite 302 | Brownsville, TX 78521

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From: Roxanne Eckstein

Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 1:41 PM

To: Kevin O'Hanlon <kohanlon@808West.com>; Lea Ohrstrom <lohrstrom@808West.com>; Priscilla Lozano <plozano@808West.com>

Cc: Minerva Almanza <malmanza1@bisd.us>; Miguel Salinas <miguelsalinas@bisd.us>

Subject: MOU UT Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health's MEND and Brownsville ISD

Importance: High

Ms. Lozano,

Please see the attached for your review and approval for the June board meeting.

Thank you! Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (956) 698-6379.

Sincerely,

Roxy Eckstein

Roxanne Eckstein | Paralegal to Miguel Salinas | Staff Attorney | Phone: 956.698.6379 | Fax: 956.714.6400
Brownsville Independent School District | 1900 East Price Road, Suite 302 | Brownsville, TX 78521

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Memorandum of Understanding
Between The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, on behalf of its School of
Public Health's/MEND Youth Obesity Program
And
Brownsville Independent School District

Background

The MEND program is an evidence-based family focused program for overweight and obese youth 6-13 years old being offered in the Rio Grande Valley. The program is free to participants and will provide a personal approach through education, skill building, and support to help them live a healthy life! More information can be found at: <http://www.mendfoundation.org/>

Referrals for this program come from clinics, schools and community-based organizations. Some schools and organizations will also host the program for the 10-week intervention sessions.

This Memorandum of Understanding is between The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, on behalf of its School of Public Health's/MEND Youth Obesity Program and Brownsville Independent School District and covers the time-period June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025. The following agreements guide the collaboration between the two aforementioned organizations during the stated time period.

UT Health will:

- Recruit, fund and train employees and contract workers as MEND delivery teams.
- Enroll and obtain consents/liability waivers from participants, children and parents.
- Maintain confidential all participant records in a secure cloud-hosted system.
- Comply with HIPPA requirements.
- Deliver the 10-week curriculum.
- Provide ongoing communication and support with enrolled families.
- Complete pre and post measurements/assessments.
- Enter data into the secure, cloud-hosted MEND database.
- Provide quarterly reports to BISD Health Services regarding referred participants and overall program participant progress and outcomes.
- Maintain support, connection and contact with families 18 months post 10-week program through MEND World, graduate support group and MEND family gatherings.
- Communicate on a regular basis with designated BISD representative(s) to insure positive communication and feedback about the program.
- Maintain clean and organized any space provided by BISD for program activities.
- Provide training/information about MEND to BISD staff/faculty, parents and board members upon request.
- Maintain open lines of regular communication with the BISD designated contact, relaying any issues or concerns to them immediately in order to ensure smooth implementation of program.
- Provide all marketing materials: flyers, posters, banners, strategic communications (e.g. letters, brochures, postcards, newsletter articles) to efficiently communicate about the program.
- Provide all materials and teaching aids required by leaders to run the program as well as all equipment (exercise, active play, measuring) required.

The Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) will:

- Provide referrals to the MEND program through direct referrals, letters/flyers mailed to eligible families, and/or phone calls to students to be determined by the school nurses at BISD Schools.
- Provide the space for twice weekly, two hour (afterschool or Saturday) MEND parent/child sessions. This would include classroom space and access to a gymnasium or outdoor open play space area for exercise. This availability will be determined by BISD and communicated to MEND staff.
- BISD will maintain open lines of regular communication between its designated contact and the UT School of Public Health/MEND designated contact, relaying any issues or concerns to MEND staff in order to ensure smooth implementation of program.
- BISD will work with UT School of Public Health/MEND staff to set up a system of direct referral into the program (by school nurses) and/or indirect referral (letter to families) to encourage qualifying children and their families to participate in this free program.

Signed on _____ by:

T. Kevin Dillon
Senior Executive Vice President,
Chief Operating and Financial Officer

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez
Superintendent of Schools
Brownsville Independent School District
Official