

**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 THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE EAGLE PASS ISD AND THE WINTERGARDEN WOMEN'S SHELTER, INC.**

- (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.**

## 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 partners listed below 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 February 20, 2014.**

### **I.) Description of Partner Agency**

The Wintergarden Women's Shelter (WWS, Inc.) based in Dimmit, Texas was established in 1994 to serve four counties (Dimmit, LaSalle, Maverick and Zavala), adjacent to those served by BCFS HHS, to provide shelter and support to victims of domestic violence. Before it became a full-service shelter, victims lacked significant resources including transportation assistance to help maintain their safety. The community had little awareness of the issues involved in domestic violence, and local law enforcement had no well-defined protocols for handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases. In 1997, WWS became an OVW 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.

Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. (WWS) provides safe shelter for female and male victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, serving approximately 1,200 persons each year at their main location in Carrizo Springs, Dimmit County, Texas. WWS also provides outreach and direct victim services in the counties of Zavala, Maverick and LaSalle. The agency also provides assistance with legal procedures related to protective orders, school-based education and awareness activities (this includes special presentations during National Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention in February, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention in April, and Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention in October), as well as outreach education, and training on the complex issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, rape and stalking for law enforcement, the judiciary, 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:

1. To develop complimentary services and operations between Wintergarden Women's Shelter 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 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 stalking 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.

**IV.) 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 the Wintergarden Women’s Shelter, Inc.

Project services will include:

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

**V.) Timeline**

Responsibilities under this memorandum of Understanding would start February 20, 2014 through February 20, 2015.

**VI.) 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 MOU. Further, we have reviewed the proposed project and approve it.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Gilberto Gonzalez  
Superintendent

Eagle Pass ISD

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Brenda Compagnone M.ED, LPC-S  
Executive Director

Wintergarden Women’s Shelter, Inc.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_