

Memorandum of Understanding

This memorandum of understanding is executed between HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN and BCFS Health and Human Services (BCFS HHS) both partners commit to the following:

Goals

Both HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN and BCFS HHS understand and agree to the following project goals:

1. Increased area coordination of violence prevention, outreach, victim services, and offender accountability programs
2. A reduction of violence in the community
3. New and enhanced local capacity to serve child victims of violence
4. Increased violent juvenile offender accountability

Expression of Support

HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN fully supports BCFS HHS's proposed program and commits to engaging with BCFS HHS to ensure the program's success within our jurisdiction.

Roles and Responsibilities

BCFS Health and Human Services will:

- Establish an area Planning Team, to include prevention, response, outreach, and accountability-related agencies, including HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN, and coordinate area Planning Team meetings.
- Conduct baseline surveys, resource mapping, and gap analyses for the area regarding violence against children prevention, intervention, and response.
- In partnership with the Planning Team, develop area care coordination protocols for streamlined and enhanced prevention, identification, and referrals for victim services.
- Ensure BCFS HHS adherence to all implementation procedures as agreed upon with HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN, including consent, confidentiality, mandated reporting, and other critical protocols.
- Support area partners to identify and refer victims of gang violence.
- Coordinate and/or provide trainings for partners to help enhance the area's response to responding to child survivors of specific forms of violence.
- Provide direct victim services/advocacy for youth who are suspected or confirmed victims of gang violence, and refer other child victims of violence to area programs as delineated within the Planning Team protocol.

- Support area partners to develop training and protocols that help enhance juvenile offender accountability, including supporting victims to engage in investigations and increasing bystander helping behavior across the region.
- Work with area schools and other partners to provide violence prevention and outreach to youth. BCFS HHS will engage area partners to contribute to prevention and outreach activities regarding topics within partner expertise, interest, and jurisdiction.
- Coordinate and/or provide victim services for students and families identified as victims of violence over the course of the project
- Develop safe data sharing protocols with area partners, including HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN, and provide regular reports regarding program impact as agreed upon

HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN will:

- Actively participate in the Planning Team meetings.
- Collaboratively develop and follow the protocol via which BCFS HHS and area partners will identify and respond to child victims of violence.
- Participate in trainings to help enhance the area's response to responding to child survivors of dating violence, sexual assault, domestic violence, drug-related violence, gun violence, human trafficking and/or child maltreatment.
- Support BCFS HHS to conduct a needs assessment and baseline surveys across the community by facilitating access to relevant personnel and/or sharing data where possible.
- Refer identified child victims of violence for victim services in accordance with the Planning Team protocols developed for the area.
- Continue to provide direct victim services and outreach for child survivors of FORM OF VIOLENCE as HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN already provides in their service area.
- Participate in joint prevention and outreach activities with BCFS HHS relevant to HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN's expertise, interest, and jurisdiction.
- Share data, as agreed upon via the Planning Team protocols developed prior to the fall of 2021.

Estimated Time Committed to Planning and Operation

HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN confirms it will not receive funds from BCFS HHS to participate in this project. HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN estimates its time commitment to the project will include:

- 8 hours annually for Planning Team meetings (quarterly meetings at 2 hours each)
- 4 hours annually to participate in area trainings
- 4 hours annually to participate in joint prevention and outreach activities.
- 4 hours annually to maintain the project, including data sharing, making referrals, and case staffing

BCFS HHS anticipates it will commit approximately 24,000 working hours toward this project over a 3-year project period, with direct service personnel allocated 100% to the project.

This agreement is contingent upon BCFS HHS receiving funding to implement the project. Participating in this agreement does not require any financial commitment. BCFS HHS or HIDALGO COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE YOUNG HEARTS MATTER CAMPAIGN may withdraw from this agreement at any time in any of the following circumstances: a) ethical, safety, or other code of conduct violations; b) loss of funding; or c) any other circumstances outlined in the protocols to be developed in 2021.

Signed,

Celeste Garcia
Executive Director, Community Services Division
BCFS Health and Human Services
Office

Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr.
Criminal District Attorney
Hidalgo County District Attorney's

Date

Date