

Memorandum of Understanding Between

Hidalgo County Head Start Program

And

Texas Attorney General

The Hidalgo County Head Start Program (HCHSP) and Texas Attorney General agree to establish a working and cooperative relationship between the parties in order to plan services appropriate for each agency's or program's clients. It is the objective of the Hidalgo County Head Start Program to collaborate with partners in our communities, in order to provide the highest level of services to children and families; to foster the development of a continuum of family centered services, and to advocate for a community that shares responsibility for the healthy development of children and families of all cultures.

The terms and conditions set forth in the following document shall constitute the entire Agreement between the HCHSP and Texas Attorney General may not be amended except by a written document signed by HCHSP and Texas Attorney General.

Texas Attorney General agrees:

- To educate parents on the child support services the agency offers.
- To assist parents in obtaining financial support for their children.
- To inform parents of their rights and responsibilities when applying for services.

Hidalgo County Head Start Program will:

- Provide a comprehensive pre-school program for economically disadvantage children, three to five years of age. The program gives priority to identify, recruit, and serve foster children, homeless children, and children with disabilities and their families. Services include health, mental health, nutrition, education, special services, social services, parent involvement, and transition services.
- Engage in an ongoing family partnership building and provide social service assistance when needed.
- Provide information and referrals to families regarding services of collaborating agency/program.
- Abide by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services final regulations pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).
- Maintain the children's, families', and programmatic records in a manner that will assure the protection of the rights and privacy of parents, families, and staff. All HCHSP records, data, or information related to individual children, families, and staff will be treated as confidential. Release of information will take place only with clients' prior written consent and approval.

Collaboration Efforts between Texas Attorney General and HCHSP:

- In the event that the receiving agency or program is unable to provide services to the client, it is agreed that alternate referrals will be provided as possible resources.
- The undersigned parties agree that they will try, when possible, to participate and collaborate in shared forums, networking meetings, and training sessions.

