



**Memorandum of Understanding between
The Oregon Department of Education and
The Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services**

Goal

To develop and enhance the collaborative relationship between the Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Office of Student Learning and Partnerships (OSL&P) on behalf of the children and families that are served by both agencies and require specialized and coordinated mental health and education services.

Purpose of Agreement

The intent of this agreement is to promote children's education and mental health treatment through community and family partnerships by outlining roles and responsibilities in collaborating at all service levels throughout the State. This Letter of Agreement is being developed as the Children's Mental Health System Initiative (CSCI) is in process of implementation, and, due to the significant changes in the children's mental health system, will be updated as needed.

Statewide Systems Initiative Development

- ODE and OMHAS agree to invest in the statewide system initiative by participating in the each other's statewide Advisory Committees: Mental Health Planning and Management Advisory Council and State Advisory Council for Special Education.
- ODE and OMHAS agree to jointly plan and coordinate mental health and education services funded through the ODE Long Term Care and Treatment program. The agencies will continue to work to balance the need for facility-based and community-based education services.
- OMHAS and ODE agree to collaborate on the following for the purpose of ongoing systems monitoring:

- Data and information system
- System oversight, monitoring, and technical assistance to mental health and education service providers.

Shared Core Values

Through ongoing communication and participation in system planning, ODE and OMHAS have identified the following as core values for system development:

Culturally Competent

Services provided to families will honor each family's identified cultural values and norms. Services will be gender specific and meet the developmental needs of children served.

Child Centered, Family Driven

- ODE and OMHAS will ensure meaningful family involvement at the policy, local or regional, provider, and child and family levels and explore mechanisms to ensure family involvement in decision-making processes.
- ODE and OMHAS will guide services by meeting the individual needs of the child and listening to the family's expression of those needs.
- School age children identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Act are eligible for a free and appropriate public education. Public mental health services are largely based on medical appropriateness and Medicaid eligibility.

Community-Based

Mental health services will be delivered in the most natural environment and least restrictive setting as feasible. These services will be designed to keep children at home, in school and out of trouble. Education services will be provided collaboratively to support the community-based delivery of mental health services.

Locally Developed

Technical assistance and consultation from OMHAS and ODE will be provided as needed. The strength of the CSCI is in the partnerships developed at the local level. In collaboration with local child-serving partners, the principal parties developing collaborative working relationships in local communities are:

- School Districts
- Education Service Districts
- Mental Health Organizations (MHOs)
- Community Mental Health Programs, and
- Direct contract providers.

Mutual Guiding Principles and Responsibilities:

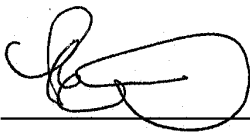
Based on these core values, ODE and OMHAS agree on following principles and responsibilities in guiding the development of statewide systems change initiatives and the development of local service systems:

We agree that education partners will be invited to participate in local or regional advisory councils, local community coordinating teams, and child and family teams, when appropriate.

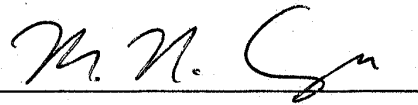
We agree that local memorandums of understanding will be developed to encourage collaboration between school districts and/or education services districts and Mental Health Organizations and/or Community Mental Health Programs to formalize partnerships on behalf of children and families that are jointly served through specialized and coordinated education and mental health services.

We agree that the memorandums of understanding will outline the sharing of in kind or financial resources and agreements on child level and system level planning and policy decision making to foster effective local partnerships.

Signed



Robert E. Nikkel, MSW
Assistant Director, OMHAS



M. Nolan Campbell **SEP 06 2005**
Contracting Officer, ODE