Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement (MOU/MOA)

East Central Missouri Behavioral Health Services d/b/a Arthur Center Community Health (ACCH) and Mexico Public Schools (MPS) have come together as partners to collaborate for the purpose of providing MPS with behavioral health consultation and to increase access to mental health supports for families and students who attend MPS.

ACCH and MPS desire to reflect in a *Memorandum of Understanding* the services to be provided through the collaboration and the roles and responsibilities of each organization. The agencies desire to enhance the collaboration so that students served at MPS have an opportunity to receive support for mental health and behavioral concerns and want this MOU to reflect a formal relationship to describe the sharing of information and roles and activities of both agencies when addressing mental health and behavioral needs of students attending MPS.

Description of Partner Agencies

Mexico Public Schools

MPS is a public school district serving the students residing within the MPS district boundaries. Students receive referral and intervention services to address behavioral and learning needs, as appropriate. Assistance to access services in the community is provided by school district staff through collaboration with community agencies.

East Central Missouri Behavioral Health Services d/b/a Arthur Center and Arthur Center Community Health is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides a wide range of health services for individuals and families. ACCH's mission is "Inspiring Community Health and Wellness." This mission is enhanced by community collaboration and school-based services helps to promote this mission. Services are person-centered and specific to the strengths, needs and dreams of the individuals and families served. Among the behavioral health services that are most applicable to this agreement include:

- outpatient therapy, both individual and family;
- medication management and consultation;
- case management and community support services for youth and adults;
- family support services;
- parent-child management program;
- crisis services;
- consultation and training on wellness, behavioral health, and trauma informed care.

Additional Health services that may be applied to this agreement include:

- primary care;
- dental care;
- Optometry.

ACCH has all the appropriate professional licenses and certifications which are required to perform all job duties and responsibilities described in this agreement.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is agreed by and between the partners as follows: ACCH will provide school-based behavioral health professionals to MPS as mutually agreed upon. MPS will provide adequate space for psychotherapy and groups as necessary for ACCH to provide behavioral health services under this agreement. MPS will also provide ACCH staff access to high speed internet access for services delivered to students under this agreement. MPS will educate school-based behavioral health professionals on emergency procedures for each building including intruder alerts and procedures.

The ACCH behavioral health professionals shall adhere to MPS policies while on school district premises, as well as adhere to ACCH for delivery of services including the ACCH Code of Conduct. The ACCH professional will be supervised by the ACCH Director of Youth Services and/or designee.

Compliance with HIPAA To the extent that it is required by law, ACCH shall ensure that the services it provides in this partnership with MPS complies with all applicable rules, regulations and accreditation standards or requirements, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act ("HITECH"), including the so-called Privacy, Security, Breach Notification and Enforcement Rules (the "HIPAA Laws") and other applicable laws that govern the privacy and security of Protected Health Information. Insofar as ACCH has access to or has been provided with protected health information ("PHI"), as defined in HIPAA, of any MPS students or employees, ACCH agrees it shall: (A) Only use or disclose PHI as permitted: (1) under this Agreement; or, (2) by MPS under the HIPAA rules; (B) Use appropriate safeguards to prevent misuse of PHI; (C) Make PHI available to ACCH if it is necessary to comply with its access and amendment requirements as set forth under the HIPAA rules; (D) Return or destroy all PHI not related to behavioral health services provided under this agreement that is not a part if the student's ACCH medical record upon termination of this Agreement; and (E) Report any improper disclosure of PHI immediately to MPS.

Compliance with FERPA MPS shall maintain confidentiality of personally identifiable information about MPS students as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act regulations ("FERPA"). With respect to MPS students, ACCH shall also comply in all respects with the requirements of FERPA and cooperate with MPS to ensure that the FERPA rights of each student, parent or eligible student are observed. MPS shall share personally identifiable information about a student with ACCH when MPS determines that ACCH has a legitimate educational interest (e.g. a need to know) in order to provide services to that student and family as MPS behavioral health consultant and with the purpose of problem solving and supporting students and families in accessing mental health supports available to them; however, personally identifiable information about a student will only be shared with ACCH with parent consent if for purposes other than a legitimate educational interest.

ACCH behavioral health staff shall participate as an active member of the school's Problem Solving team, as requested by the Director of Student Services or other designated staff. ACCH staff shall support students in the school setting by assisting with verbal de-escalation and communicating with parents regarding critical situations, and model use of specific problem-solving and coping skills in non-academic settings.

ACCH behavioral health staff and MPS staff as designated by the Director of Student Services shall meet on a regular basis, no less than three times a year, to review progress and share interventions for individual students receiving community support services.

Both parties will share necessary information as requested by the other party for the purpose of monitoring progress of the collaboration; sharing of information is subject to confidentiality requirements of FERPA and HIPAA.

When a family agrees to ACCH services, ACCH staff will assess student and family to clearly identify goals and eligibility for mental health services through ACCH.

ACCH will also provide individual counseling on school district premises to students identified by the MPS as needed and as the program develops. ACCH will work with MPS to develop group counseling resources on school district premises.

Regular scheduled meetings between partners will be held to monitor the progress of the students and the success of the collaboration as a whole.

Timeline: The roles and responsibilities described above will be reviewed and evaluated at least annually.

SIGNATORIES. The signatories below are authorized to agree to the terms of this MOU/MOA on behalf of **Mexico Public Schools** by President of Mexico Public Schools Board of Education and on behalf of **Arthur Center Community Health** by its Chief Executive Officer and is effective as of the date first written above.

Jessica Ekern

X_____

President of Mexico Public Schools Board of Education

Date: _____

D. Brock Lough

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CEO, East Central Missouri Behavioral Health Services, Inc. d/b/a Arthur Center And Arthur Center Community Health

Date: 1/31/2025