**Memorandum of Understanding #FY21-Take Care Delaware**

**By and Between**

**State of Delaware**

**Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families,**

**Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services**

**and**

**­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District**

**and**

**Delaware Police Department, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Police Department,**

**and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Police Department**

**Notification of Exposure to Trauma**

**I. PURPOSE**

This Agreement is entered into between the State of Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF), Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS), and the Delaware \_\_\_\_\_\_ School District, and the Delaware State Police Department, the Delaware \_\_\_\_\_\_ Police Department, and the Delaware \_\_\_\_\_\_ Police Department.

**The Larger Project**. The purpose of the Agreement under this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to further implement an initiative aimed at addressing children's exposure to violence and trauma. Childhood exposure to violence and trauma, without the right supports, is often associated with increased risk of poor outcomes in emotional, behavioral and physical health over the life span. Children exposed to violence and trauma are also at a higher risk of poor school related outcomes and are more likely to enter the criminal justice system later in life, which can contribute to generational cycles of violence and system involvement. This project directly addresses the goal of mitigating these negative impacts of exposure to trauma when it does occur, by providing support and on-site, trauma-focused interventions by school staff and/or mental health providers, if necessary, to children identified by local law enforcement and school personnel.

**Notification of Exposure to Trauma**. Acknowledging the collaborative work already underway in the community around trauma and specifically around social and emotional health within the school system, this MOU will focus on notification to the school system by law enforcement (LE) when a child is exposed to trauma in the home or in the community. Such notification will enable the child’s school to handle the child with care upon his or her arrival at school the next school day following the incident.

For the purpose of this MOU, the phrase “exposed to trauma” shall be construed broadly and, by way of example and not by way of limitation, shall mean and include:

1. Exposure of a child to any of the following events:
2. the abuse of a family member, loved one, or pet;
3. abuse or neglect;
4. child custody, visitation or support, or other domestic relations controversy where there is law enforcement intervention;
5. community violence;
6. the commission of a crime;
7. loss of a family member or friend;
8. an overdose;
9. the arrest of a family member;
10. racism or any other form of discrimination;
11. homelessness;
12. mental illness and /or substance abuse by a parent or caregiver;
13. hospitalization or family illness;
14. incarceration of a parent or family member;
15. sudden, unexpected or frequent changes in caregiver, school, program or home life;
16. natural disasters, or similar acts or experiences.
17. The word “exposure” shall include, but not be limited to, the child:
18. is a victim or witness in the event,
19. experiences or is involved in the event, or
20. is questioned relative to the event

Should a law enforcement officer be uncertain as to whether or not to give notice to the school, judgement should be exercised in favor of notification.

**II. Delaware State Police Department, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Police Department, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Police Department (Police Departments) Agree to:**

1. Send a notification to the school district’s dedicated Take Care Delaware (TCD) email address (i.e. “TakeCareDE@Smyrna.k12.de.us”), identifying children that have been present for police interactions or otherwise exposed to violence or trauma in the community.
2. Follow the notification protocol outlined in this section.
3. Notification shall be given through the means of an email, originating from the Delaware State Police Headquarters Communication Section (HQ Comm). This email notification shall state the child’s name and school district attended if known, and the words “Take Care Delaware.” As the program evolves, the email originating method will be updated, but the information in the email notification received will be the same.
4. Notifications will contain no specific information about the incident, in order to maintain the privacy of the student and their family.

Comply with all confidentiality regulations/laws of students and their families.

1. Provide non-identifying, aggregate data, reports and documentation of this project, upon request, to the Division of Prevention & Behavioral Health Services and other key stakeholders.

**III. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District agrees to:**

1. Receive notifications from LE, as described in section II above, and disseminate them to the designated point persons within each school by forwarding to them the TCD e-mail notification from LE.
2. Upon receipt of a Take Care Delaware notification, identifying a child who has been exposed to trauma, the designated point persons within each school will then disseminate the notification to appropriate teachers, social workers, guidance counselors, and any other relevant staff.
3. Provide identified students who are exhibiting behaviors that are not consistent with their normal manner a safe person and space where they can receive additional supports, such as postponing a test, accepting a missed assignment, or allowing the student to rest if he or she is having a hard time focusing or staying awake, but otherwise not addressing the child about the incident.
4. Determine need for on-going counseling or other intervention if the student is not currently involved with mental health services.
5. If necessary, the school may contact parents or guardians to obtain appropriate consents for on-going mental health services for the student.
6. Provide education on trauma-informed care to all school personnel, parents and guardians, as requested and/or as required by law.
7. Maintain the confidentiality of student's information, including but not limited to academic records, health records, and mental health services. Notifications may be maintained for any purposes consistent with the purpose of this MOU, but shall not be part of any student’s permanent record.
8. Provide non-identifying, aggregate data, reports and documentation of this project upon request to Division of Prevention & Behavioral Health Services and other key stakeholders.

**IV. TERMINATION, ADDITIONAL AGENCIES, AND LIABILITY:**

1. This Agreement shall become effective on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and continue until\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Any agency has the right to cancel this MOU with 30 days written notice to the other parties. Should any LE agency terminate this MOU, then the MOU shall remain in effect as to all other agencies.
3. Additional agencies, whether or not a law enforcement agency, may become parties to this MOU with the agreement of “School”, which may be effected by the execution of an addendum to this MOU by such agency and “School”.
4. Each party shall be responsible for the actions committed by that party and its agents. No party assumes any liability for any actions committed by any other party. However, each party to this Agreement agrees to cooperate fully with the other party in the defense of claims, pursuant to these provisions. This cooperation will include, but is not limited to, the following:
5. Immediate notification to the other party of any accident or incident resulting in personal injury, damage or having the potential for liability;
6. Immediate notification to the other party of any claim made against it alleging liability;
7. Permit a party of this Agreement to conduct a parallel independent investigation of any incident, and/or
8. Make personnel and records available for purposes of the investigation or defense of any claim and/or legal proceeding to the extent permitted by law.

This MOU shall remain in effect until terminated as provided herein.

Effective this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

**DELAWARE STATE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

By: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chief of Police

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Chief of Police

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Chief of Police

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

Superintendent

**DEPT. OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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

Cabinet Secretary