MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the
Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families
and the
Arizona Department of Public Health Services
Bureau of Program Operations

I. PURPOSE

The Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF) enters into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Arizona Department of Public Health Services, Bureau of Program Operations for the purposes of implementation of the ASPIRE project within the state of Arizona, for the period ending September 30, 2018.

II. BACKGROUND

Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness for Education and Employment (ASPIRE) is a project funded by the U.S. Department of Education to the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, PR/Award # H418P130009 CFDA # 84.418P), known as Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE). ASPIRE contains the following states’ agencies: USOR, the Arizona Governor’s Office of Children, Youth and Families (AGOCYF), the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Disability Employment and Transitions (DETD), North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), and the South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

III. DESCRIPTION OF SUPPORTS

The Arizona ASPIRE Project will partner to recruit and enroll approximately 1,100 youth ages 14 to 16 who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to participate in a new, national, five year study. One-half of the youth will receive a variety of interventions to improve their educational and employment outcomes. Their families, who must live in poverty in order to receive SSI, will receive similar information and services to improve their overall family income.

- Training and information for parents and families, including advocacy, community resources, educational and employment opportunities, and more.
- A complete individualized explanation of the public benefits the youth and family are receiving and how working and increased earnings impact those benefits.
- A paid employment opportunity for the youth while he or she is still in high school.
- Self-determination training for the youth and families.
- Financial management education and training to assist families in understanding their values and available resources to move from poverty to self-sufficiency.
- Case management services provided to the youth and family to assist them in navigating the complicated systems of public benefits and assistance in accessing services, supports and information to support greater self-sufficiency. This case manager will facilitate all of these interventions, as well as interact with school personnel, vocational rehabilitation counselors, and all other providers of services.

The project partners will consist of the Governor’s Office for Children Youth and Families, the Arizona Bridge to Independent Living, the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the Arizona Department of Education, the Arizona Department of Health Services – Division of Public Health Services, Arizona Department of Health Services – Bureau of Program Operations, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, the Arizona Assets Alliance, the Arizona Department of Economic Security – Tribal Relations Liaison, the Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Benefits and Medical Eligibility, Family Assistance Administration, the Arizona Department of Economic Security – Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Arizona Department of Economic Security Employment Administration, the Institute for Human Development – Arizona University Center on Disabilities at Northern Arizona University, Raising Special Kids – Families Helping Families, the Arizona Department of Economic Security – Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Sonoran University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities – Family and Community Medicine at the University of Arizona, and the Southwest Institute for Families and Children.

The partners agree to collaborate and operate multi-disciplinary work groups to measurably improve education and employment outcomes of youth on SSI transitioning out of high school. To this end, all partners agree to support the goals and objectives of the ASPIRE Project.

IV. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1) The Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families will:
   a) Serve as the lead agency and provide overall Project oversight and management.
   b) Provide fiscal oversight and administration of the grant program for all the multiple partners with varying levels of financial and organizational contributions for this comprehensive project.
   c) Submit quarterly Financial Status Reports and Progress reports to the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, the formative evaluation team, and the external evaluation team.
   d) Provide technical assistance for the Project to all project partners.
   e) Share information derived from the Project to all project partners.

2) The Arizona Department of Public Health Services, Bureau of Program Operations will:
   a) Provide support through the Child and Family Team (CFT) through Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs) and Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (TRBHA), including skills training and life preparedness services and support for transition aged youth.
   b) Support outreach and recruitment of eligible youth and families. Distribute information through Children’s Leads and Special Population Coordinators at the RBHAs and TRBHA. Provide technical assistance trainings for this purpose, as needed.
c) Designate a point person for the project that will serve on the advisory committee, serve as consultant for integrating services with RBHAs and TRBHAs. Point person will be Adam Robson.
d) Provide guidance to RBHAs and TRBHAs on ways to integrate cross-agency support and service coordination for youth/family team meetings.
e) Solicit input from ADHS and BHS Tribal Liaisons to serve as subject matter experts pertaining to outreach, recruitment, service capacity and service coordination

V. TERM OF AGREEMENT, TERMINATION AND AMENDMENTS

The continuation of the ASPIRE Project shall be contingent upon receipt of funding by the GOCYF from the U.S. Department of Education’s PROMISE Initiative through the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation, upon the date of award and shall terminate five years from the award date. The beginning and end dates of this collaborative effort will coincide with the period outlined in the grant award. This MOU shall be contingent upon these circumstances.

This MOU acknowledges unfunded contributions of services and activities in support of the ASPIRE Project for the project period from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Program Operations.

Any party may terminate this MOU at any earlier time by providing written notice.

Amendments to this MOU shall be made in writing and signed by involved parties.

VI. APPROVAL

We, the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU. Further, we have reviewed the collaborative effort described here, and approve.

STATE OF ARIZONA, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By [Signature] Date 6/24/14
Tammy B. Paz-Combs, Director
Governor’s Office for Children, Youth and Families

By [Signature] Date 7/15/14
Paul Goldys, Assistant Director
ADHS/Division of Behavioral Health Services
Chief Procurement Officer

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