

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE BOARD OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND
FAMILIES COUNT: YOUTH COUNT HOST HOMES

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the School Board of Santa Rosa County School District and Families Count on the ____th of ____, 2012 for the purpose of communication and referrals to the Families Count: Youth Count - Host Homes program.

Families Count agrees to:

1. Select Host Homes following successful completion of multiple level background screening, drug screening, extensive home study to include information on trauma informed care of youth, and final approval of agency director
2. Place student in a Host Home when one is available and when the placement will be in the best interest of the student and the Host Homes family
3. Assist student in obtaining appropriate shelter within the community if no Host Home is currently available
4. Provide educational case management to student for the duration of program participation
5. Host Homes family and youth will collaborate with Host Homes Coordinator to create a contract between family and youth to outline house rules, responsibilities and expectations of both parties
6. Check in with student and Host Home family on a weekly basis following placement to ensure safety of student and provide support to both parties
7. Host Home Coordinator will be available to host-family and youth for individual and confidential telephone or face-to-face consultation as needed for any conflict resolution to avoid disruption of placement
8. If a minor student discloses the reason for homelessness as being abandonment, physical, verbal or emotional abuse, or neglect, Host Homes Coordinator will immediately make a report to the Department of Children and Families for investigation
9. Accept referrals for any youth enrolled in an educational program, age notwithstanding. Due to a limited number of available Host Homes, individual placement will be determined by potential for successful match based on Host Homes family preferences, assessment and preferences of student, and staffing of case with supervision


10. Notify Santa Rosa County School District of any students referred to Host Homes from an outside source to ensure they receive services through the school under the McKinney-Vento Act
11. Notify assigned Homeless Student Liaison at Santa Rosa County School District of changes in student status such as termination of services, change of placement, or in the case of an emergency
12. Participate in regular collaboration with Santa Rosa County School District through monthly meetings to identify the needs of homeless students and monitor progress of those participating in the Host Homes program
13. Provide Host Homes family with contact information for the student's homeless liaison to assist with creating a safety net for the family and student if needed
14. Upon the receipt of authorized student records, Families Count will keep said records confidential, consistent with Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, and federal laws relating to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment – U.S. Codes (20 USC 1232g), Code of Federal Regulations (CPR) for Title 34; part 99.

The School Board of the Santa Rosa County School District will:

1. Consult with homeless youth enrolled in Santa Rosa County School District and inform youth about housing options, including Families Count Host Homes
2. Obtain signed consent from parent/guardian or youth, if 18 years of age or older, authorizing exchange of information
3. Ensure that release of student information to Families Count is consistent with Florida Statutes, State Board of Education rules, and federal laws relating to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), also known as the Buckley Amendment – U.S. Codes (20 USC 1232g), Code of Federal Regulations (CPR) for Title 34; part 99.
4. Complete Families Count Host Home referral form to request services for youth interested in the program
5. Meet and/or communicate monthly regarding the status, progress, and needs of Santa Rosa County School District youth participating in the Host Home Program
6. Upon notification from Families Count of a Santa Rosa County School District youth who is participating in the program, ensure that the youth has been identified by the school district as eligible for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Services

This agreement may be amended at any time by mutual consent of the parties reduced to writing.

Tim Wyrosdick, Superintendent
Santa Rosa County School District

 6.28.12

Cate Jordan, Executive Director
Families Count