

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
DEEP EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AND
POLK COUNTY JUDGE HONORABLE SYDNEY MURPHY

I. PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

The terms of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG) and Polk County Judge Honorable Sydney Murphy is effective as of September 01, 2022.

Either DETCOG or the Polk County Judge Honorable Sydney Murphy may propose amendments to this MOU at any time by providing written notice. To become effective, amendments shall require approval of the DETCOG Executive Director, DETCOG FAYS Director and Polk County Judge Honorable Sydney Murphy.

This MOU will assist DETCOG in effectively providing quality services to youth in at risk situations and their families. DETCOG's policies stipulate "no youth will be denied services due to refusal of the family to participate in counseling. If the family is unavailable or refuses to participate the youth will be seen and provided counseling services at school or FAYS offices." The following counties are currently provided FAYS services: Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler.

II. PURPOSE

1. Jointly participate in the development and implementation of the Family and Youth Success Program "FAYS" in the Deep East Texas region, including the most efficient use of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDPRS) FAYS Program funds. TDPRS places its highest priority on keeping youths in their homes, (Family Preservation). We will receive referrals from CPS workers, Juvenile Probation Officers and ISD's who can refer families to FAYS. These agencies will also work with the FAYS program to provide training on what type of clients we can work with.
2. Encourage the development of mutual training activities for providers of services to youth personnel at the regional levels, with particular emphasis on prevention techniques, family crisis intervention, and enhancement of client self-determination. This can be achieved whenever there is an opportunity for cross training to assist each agency employee's understanding of the requirements for acceptance in their program.
3. Coordinate case referral procedures for clients and their families to assure that the most appropriate and least restrictive service is accessible, and that confidentiality is maintained.
4. Ensure that staff at the local level coordinates services and work together to carry out the mutual objectives of the two agencies.

III. CONTACT PERSONS

DETCOG will remain in contact with juvenile and local officials in the counties FAYS services are provided. There will be communication as needed or meetings called to provide updates on the FAYS Program.

III. CERTIFICATION

BY: Laurie Hunt
Executive Director, DETCOG

BY: Sydney Murphy
Polk County Judge Honorable Sydney Murphy

BY: D. V. K.
Director, DETCOG FAYS