SCHOOL BASED THERAPY/COUNSELING SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOUNTAIN COMPREHENSIVE CARE CENTER AND HOPKINS COUNTY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the **Hopkins County Schools Board of Education,** (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), realizes that there are children and adolescents who will perform better socially, emotionally and academically if therapy/counseling services are accessible and available on-site;

WHEREAS, the Board has a strong interest in assuring the success of each student in their charge;

WHEREAS, **Mountain Comprehensive Care Center** (hereinafter known as "MCCC"), has a strong interest in, and capability of providing the clinical treatment and therapeutic support to those children in the Hopkins County Schools System who have need of such services during the 2020-2021 school year.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED, BY AND BETWEEN THE BOARD AND MCCC:

A) The Parties will join in a fully collaborative effort to provide behavioral health services to children in the Hopkins County Schools System through the school based therapy/counseling services. Specific schools will be identified by mutual agreement based on the

- Expressed need and desire for such services by the school administrator,
- Availability of space and facilities for such services at that school, and
- The ongoing availability of qualified mental health personnel to provide those services.

B) A therapist or counselor will be on-site at the assigned school as scheduled, except on days that there is no school.

C) The therapist or counselor will abide by all policies and procedures as established by the Board and each individual school as well as the policies of MCCC.

D) An initial meeting will be set up between the Hopkins County Schools Director of Pupil Personnel or Board designee, each school principal, the therapist, the school counselor and the Family Resource Center or Youth Service Center Director to discuss a protocol for communication and referral, and to set aside space and identify facilities (e.g. phone access) necessary for behavioral health therapy/counseling.

E) The Board will provide:

I.) Administrative encouragement, support and flexibility to those schools and Family Resource Centers who are participating in the School-Based Therapy/Counseling Services; including office space, telephone and internet connection donated for purposes of behavioral health services at the school.

F) MCCC will provide:

I.) Administrative and clinical supervision, a qualified mental health therapist or counselor and any necessary clinical materials; as agreed to in the protocol.

II.) If requested by the board, at the hiring of a new school counselor and on an annual basis for all MCCC counselors thereafter, a copy of the AOC background check and a copy of the CAN check which will not have a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.

G) It is understood that MCCC is not the State of Kentucky's designated provider in Western Kentucky for Emergency/Crisis Response. If an Emergency/Crisis situation (a situation in which a child is exhibiting homicidal and/or suicidal ideation or intent) arises, MCCC staff can aid in a referral to designated agencies, provide options for referrals, and if a MCCC clinician in the school is not in session with another client, this clinician can assist with de-escalation of beyond control behaviors (i.e. property destruction, defiance, tantrum like behaviors).

If a student has expressed an immediate desire to harm self/others, the Crisis Line operated by the local Community Mental Health Center can be contacted at:

800-223-8913 (Lifeskills Inc.)
800-592-3980 (Four Rivers Behavioral Health)
877-473-7766 (Pennyroyal Center)
800-737-0696 (RiverValley Behavioral Health)
911 may also be notified

The client can be transported by their parent to a hospital, or crisis unit, or an inpatient psychiatric hospital for an Assessment/Intake. If the parents cannot be contacted, or do not agree to emergency services, DCBS may be contacted for assistance.

If the situation is not urgent, the client may be seen by an approved MCCC counselor or therapist in the Hopkins County Schools for an assessment utilizing a Diagnostic Screening Assessment (DSA) which can aid in the determination of the child's "safety to return to school".

This is not appropriate when the client is in immediate danger, when there has been a threat to harm, evidence that a client has a plan or means, or when concerns are severe. In these cases, Emergency/Crisis assessment protocols as described above should be utilized.

Behavioral health services will be billed according to MCCC agency contracts with Medicaid and the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. Each individual child will be billed on a fee-for-service basis using third-party payors and/or an income-based sliding fee scale as applicable. The Board will not be billed by MCCC for these School-Based Therapy/Counseling Services.

Psychological testing is NOT included in this service array.

All medical records will be maintained by MCCC and are the property of MCCC. Access to the medical records by the school can only be made available through a release signed by each child's guardian or a court order.

It is understood that the behavioral health services offered at the school may extend into the summer months when school is not in session, only as agreed upon by the school administrator and MCCC.

It is understood that a designee from Hopkins County Schools may be involved in screening, interviewing and hiring of school counselors for School-Based Mental Health Services in the Hopkins County Schools, if the school designee so desires.

This agreement may be terminated with or without cause with two weeks written notice by either party via certified mail.

AGREED TO, on this _____ day of _____, 2020

Deanna Ashby, Superintendent, Hopkins County Schools Board of Education

Ken Stein, COO Western KY