

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Applicant Organization
And
Partnering Organization
For the
DuPage Community Foundation
Early Childhood Care and Education Initiative
In the Community Served by Wheaton/Warrenville School District #200

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a collaborative partnership between Metropolitan Family Services DuPage (MFSD) and Wheaton Park District.

I. MISSION

The mission of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage is to provide and mobilize the services needed to strengthen families and communities. In support of this mission, MFSD provides an array of prevention, early intervention and intervention services to families and individuals across their lifespan. These services specifically include early childhood education and home visiting parent and early childhood education services for families with children prenatal through the age of 5. MFSD is the provider of Early Head Start and Head Start services throughout DuPage county and the provider of the Parents As Teachers early childhood education model in select communities in the county. In such capacity, MFSD is currently working in partnership with Wheaton/Warrenville School District #200 to increase access to early childhood services and to improve kindergarten readiness through Head Start services. This proposed ECCE Initiative will allow MFSD to further expand partnerships and develop a more formal collaborative model for serving young children in this community. In addition, this proposed ECCE Initiative will help MFSD to achieve one of its primary goals of its 2012-2015 Strategic Plan to grow early childhood education services.

The mission of the Wheaton Park District is “to enrich the quality of community life through a diversity of healthy leisure pursuits and heightened appreciation for our natural world.”

The Wheaton Park District provides a vast array of recreational and educational opportunities to families throughout the region. Nationally recognized for its expertise in providing quality services and facilities, the Wheaton Park District continually builds and improves opportunities for the general public to meet and exceed national standards in recreation and leisure services. The District’s early childhood programs include reputable and

highly-valued services such as Wide Horizons Pre-School, Kidz Kingdom Childcare, as well as music and movement, nature, athletic, and safety enrichment programming.

Through the proposed ECCE opportunity, the Wheaton Park District will be able to collaborate with other agencies to continue providing and improving the opportunities within the community for increasing school readiness skills in young children.

Together, the Parties enter into this MOU to mutually promote early childhood care and education for the children in the community served by Wheaton/Warrenville School District #200. Accordingly, Metropolitan Family Services DuPage and Wheaton Park District, operating under this MOU agree as follows:

II. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To develop, enrich and sustain a productive and strong early childhood education collaborative for the community served by Wheaton/Warrenville School District #200; the Wheaton/Warrenville Early Childhood Collaboration (WWECC).

WWECC would reinforce federal and state initiatives with four primary goals: 1) Improve communication among early childhood service providers. 2) Increase parent education about childhood development needs. 3) Increase professional development for early childhood service providers, and 4) Increase children's kindergarten/school-readiness.

The collaboration is being formed to achieve the above stated goals while supporting the missions of each of the participating organizations. WWECC will work to be as inclusive as possible of all interested parties and stakeholders related to early childhood education and services including parent consumers. While the collaboration will work to benefit all young children and their families, special outreach will focus on low income families, immigrant/refugee families, and families with risk factors.

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage will serve as the fiscal agent for the WWECC.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

Each organization will appoint a person to serve as the official contact and coordinate the activities of each organization in carrying out this MOU. The initial appointees of each organization are:

Theresa Nihill,
Executive Director,
Metropolitan Family Services DuPage
222 E. Willow Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187
630-784-4838
nihillt@metrofamily.org

Megan Raitt
Preschool and Camps Manager
1777 S. Blanchard Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
630-510-5138
mratt@wheatonparks.org

The organizations agree to the following for this MOU:

Metropolitan Family Services DuPage will:

- Serve as fiscal agent for the WVECC
- Employ a part time facilitator for the WVECC
- Convene and facilitate regular meetings of the WVECC
- Ensure partners have a shared understanding of the WVECC model and its service delivery system
- Enhance partner commitment to the WVECC model and service delivery system
- Work with partners to establish a system of accountability for WVECC
- Work with partners to insure that all deliverables and goals of the WVECC are achieved.
- Work with partners to develop a sustainability plan for the WECC

Wheaton Park District will:

- Serve as member/partner of the WVECC task force
- Provide information on early childhood programs offered by the Wheaton Park District
- Provide information on curriculum developed for early childhood programs offered by the Wheaton Park District

IV. TERMS OF UNDERSTANDING

The term of this MOU is for a period of 3 years from the effective date of this agreement and may be extended upon written mutual agreement. It shall be reviewed at least annually to ensure that it is fulfilling its purpose and to make any necessary revisions.

Either organization may terminate this MOU upon thirty (30) days written notice without penalties or liabilities.

Authorization

The signing of this MOU is not a legal undertaking. It implies that the signatories and the organizations they represent will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU.

On behalf of the organization I represent, I am signing this MOU and agreeing to contribute to the further development of the Early Childhood Care and Education Initiative in the community served by Wheaton/Warrenville School District #200.

Lead organization name: Metropolitan Family Services DuPage

Name Theresa Nibill, Executive Director

Signature Theresa C. Nibill

Date 1/17/13

Partnering organization name: Wheaton Park District

Name: Michael Bendis

Signature [Handwritten Signature]

Date: January 15, 2013