



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 11/02/2026

Item Title: Buckner Children & Family Services X Action
Inc. FAYS and Brownsville ISD Information
MOU Discussion

BACKGROUND:

The Buckner Children & Family Services Inc. – FAYS (Family and Youth Success) Program provides services to youth 0-17 ages and their families in at-risk situations. The FAYS Program is designed to reduce family conflict, help with family support and skills and prevent the problems of runaway, school attendance issues and delinquent behaviors. The services for youth and families include screening/intake, crisis intervention, skills-based training presentations, case management, case follow-up and outreach through home visits, office visits and school and community visits. Youth and families will learn skills to help them resolve crisis among peers and family, develop their skills to cope with everyday problems and stresses in their lives and learn self-esteem concepts while developing communication skills and peer pressure refusal skills.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

No cost to the District

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend approval to renew a Memorandum of Understanding between Brownsville ISD and Buckner Children & Family Services Inc. – FAYS Program to provide youth and family at-risk services for the 2026-2027 school year. No cost to the District.

Sara M. Garza *Sara Garza*
Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Dolores Emerson *Dolores Emerson*
Dr. Norma Ibarra-Cantu *Dr. Norma Ibarra-Cantu*
Recommended by: Executive Director

Miguel Salinas *Miguel Salinas*
Reviewed by: Staff Attorney

Rose Longoria / Dr. Alma Cardenas-Rubio *Rose Longoria*
Approved by: Assistant Superintendent

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff
Dr. Timothy E. Cuff, Superintendent

When Necessary, Additional Background May Follow This.



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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FY 2026/2027

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by **Buckner Children and Family Services, Inc. (Buckner)** through its Family and Youth Success program (Buckner FAYS Program) and **Brownsville Independent School District (BISD)**, for the sole purpose of providing FAYS Program services. All services will be provided free of charge to youth and families.

Buckner FAYS Program provides services to youth, 6 to 17 years of age, and their families in at-risk situations. **Buckner FAYS Program** is designed to reduce family conflict, help with family support and skills, and prevent the problems of runaway, school attendance issues and delinquent behaviors. **Buckner FAYS Program** helps youth and families resolve crises and establish and achieve goals that strengthen and promote healthy families. The services provided to the youth and families include screening/intake, crisis intervention, skills-based training, case management services, case follow-up and outreach. All services are free of charge to **Brownsville ISD** and the surrounding areas, and provided through home visits, office visits, and school and community visits.

Buckner FAYS Program will provide skills-based training weekly, or as scheduled, to qualifying students and their families. These curriculums may be conducted in a group setting and/or after school and will be delivered and tailored to the needs of the school. Youth and their families will learn skills to help them resolve crises among peers and family, develop their skills to cope with everyday problems and stresses in their lives, and learn self-esteem concepts while developing communications skills and peer pressure refusal skills.

Program Funding and Accessibility

The Family and Youth Success (FAYS) Program is funded through the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

Additional information regarding FAYS services throughout Texas can be found at the HHSC website: <https://fss.hhs.texas.gov/programs/family-and-youth-success>.

As a state-funded program, FAYS follows all uniform grant requirements. Services are provided at no cost to families and are available to all eligible participants without discrimination based on personal beliefs.

While Buckner is a faith-based organization, the FAYS program itself is state-funded and does not provide faith-based curriculum or programming. Families are welcome to explore their own faith traditions if they choose, but program services focus on life skills training and licensed professional counseling.

**Buckner Children and
Family Services, Inc.**

12377 Merit Drive
Suite 900
Dallas, TX 75251

General Responsibility of **Buckner FAYS Program**:

- Upon the receipt of referral, provide Intake process (which includes meeting with the youth's parents to obtain consent forms),
- Provide staff to conduct group skills training and counseling services,
- Provide program curriculum and supplies.

General responsibilities of **Brownsville ISD**:

- Provide student referrals,
- Provide class/school time for FAYS services,
- Provide class/facility space for groups and/or counseling services,



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- Provide the use of equipment (TV and DVD) for group skills training.

This MOU will be in effect from September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027.

Upon agreement by BISD, this cooperative working agreement shall be for one year and will be renewed annually. This MOU may be amended or modified in writing by either party, or terminated by either party, in writing with at least 30 days' notice before the termination.

Buckner staff providing services under this MOU shall submit to BISD all screening processes before providing services and BISD shall provide each staff a release form letter to complete visits to this school.

TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND STATE LAW, BOTH BISD AND BUCKNER SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS EACH OTHER'S OFFICERS, TRUSTEES, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND AFFILIATES FROM ANY CLAIMS, LAWSUITS, DAMAGES, LEGAL EXPENSES AND OTHER COSTS RESULTING FROM THE SOLE NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL ACTS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS WHILE ENGAGED IN THE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF THIS AGREEMENT.

THIS AGREEMENT CAN BE TERMINATED AT ANY TIME BY EITHER PARTY BY NOTICE IN WRITING. SHOULD THE AGREEMENT BE TERMINATED BY EITHER PARTY, NO FURTHER COMMITMENTS OR CONSIDERATIONS ARE DUE TO THE ALTERNATE PARTY.

THE INDEMNITIES SET FORTH IN THESE PARAGRAPHS OF THIS SECTION OF THE AGREEMENT SHALL BE ENFORCEABLE AFTER TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE INDEMNITY PARAGRAPHS, BISD SHALL NOT BE DEEMED AN AGENT OF BUCKNER AND BUCKNER SHALL NOT BE DEEMED AN AGENT OF BISD.

Signed by:

Debbie Sceroler

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Debbie Sceroler, LBSW, LCPC
Associate Vice President of Domestic Programs
Buckner Children and Family Services, Inc.

9/17/2026

Date:

Dr. Timothy E. Cuff
Superintendent
Brownsville Independent School District

Date:

**Buckner Children and
Family Services**

FAYS Program

1713 E. Tyler, Suite E.
Hearlingen, Texas 78550

Phone (956) 423-7909



Brownsville Independent School District

Agenda Category: General Function
Contracts/MOU Board of Education Meeting: 08/05/2025

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Inc. FAYS and Brownsville ISD
MOU X Action
Information
Discussion

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Sara M. Garza

Submitted by: Principal/Program Director

Approved for Submission to Board of Education:

Miguel Salinas

Recommended by: Asst. Supt./CFO

Ms. Beatriz Hernandez

Reviewed by: Staff Attorney

Approved by: Deputy Supt/Chief Officer

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez
Dr. Jesus H. Chavez, Superintendent

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Criselda Cuevas
Executive Director for the RGV
Buckner Children and Family Services, Inc.

Dr. Jesus H. Chavez

Date

8-5-25

Date

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