

Federated States of Micronesia

Department of Education
and
Department of Health & Social Affairs

*Joint
Inter Agency Agreement
To Promote Collaboration and Cooperation
In Increasing Opportunities for Special Needs
Children and Their Families*

This cooperative interagency agreement is made and entered by and between the National FSM Department of Education and the National FSM Department of Health & Social Affairs pursuant to P.L. 14-08 which requires in part;

"Procedures to ensure education for children with disabilities."

- (1) The Secretary shall establish, in cooperation and consultation With the State Directors of Education and Health Services of each State, a procedure to ensure the ongoing identification, diagnosis, certification, and education of children with disabilities."

Whereas, the Department of Health & Social Affairs has, during the past several years, initiated state level programming efforts through the Maternal and Child Health Program related to the implementation of the "Children with Special Health Needs (CSHN) State Systems Development Program (SSDI)"; and

Whereas, the Children with Special Health Needs System of Services is designed to promote early identification and intervention for children with special health needs; and

Whereas, each state has entered into a state level Inter-Agency of Agreement supporting participation in the CSHN System of Services; and

Whereas, the Department of Education is mandated through FSM P.L. 14-08 to establish procedures that ensure cooperation and consultation between education and health related to ".....ongoing identification, diagnosis, certification, and education of children with disabilities"; and

Whereas, it is a mutual goal of both agencies to develop and implement services for the early identification of all eligible children with special needs and to insure that these children and their families are provided with appropriate services required to meet their needs; and

Whereas, both agencies agree and affirm that early identification and the provision of appropriate services greatly reduces the long term effect of disabling conditions.

Now Therefore, the agencies identified herein agree to implement the following terms and conditions:

A. The Department of Education Agrees:

1. To cooperate and consult with the Department of Health & Social Affairs in promoting programs and services to ensure an ongoing system of identification, diagnosis, certification, and education of children with disabilities, including children with special health needs.
2. To participate in regular program planning and coordination sessions to ensure that programs are coordinated and that overlap is minimized.
3. To jointly sponsor, a biennial meeting between the two agencies for the purpose of reviewing and updating national efforts to serve young children and families with special needs.
4. To disseminate and promote promising practices throughout the nation to all concerned agencies related to children with special needs and their families.
5. To require each State Department of Education to include in their annual state plan application a copy of a current Inter-Agency of Agreement between education and health in their state, that ensures timely identification and evaluation of children with disabilities.
6. To collaborate with the Department of Health & Social in the development of future programs to serve children with special needs and their families.
7. To jointly prepare national reports reflecting progress towards implementing programs for children with special needs and their families.

B. The Department of Health & Social Affairs Agrees:

1. To cooperate and consult with the Department of Education in promoting programs and services to ensure an ongoing system of identification, diagnosis, certification, and education of children with disabilities, including children with special health needs.
2. To participate in regular program planning and coordination sessions to ensure that programs are coordinated and that overlap is minimized.
3. To jointly sponsor, a biennial meeting between the two agencies for the purpose of reviewing and updating national efforts to serve young children and families with special needs.
4. To disseminate and promote promising practices throughout the nation all concerned agencies related to children with special needs and their families.
5. To require each State Department of Education to include in their annual state plan application a copy of a current Inter-Agency of Agreement between education and health in their state, that ensures timely identification and evaluation of children with disabilities.
6. To collaborate with the Department of Education in the developing of future programs to serve children with special needs and their families.
7. To jointly prepare national reports reflecting progress towards implementing programs for children with special needs and their families.

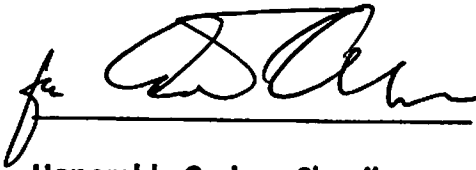
C. It is Mutually Agreed:

1. That this Agreement shall be reviewed and updated as needed but at least once every two years.
2. To widely disseminate and promote this Agreement within each agency.

3. To jointly disseminate this Agreement to the President, FSM Congress and other government agencies as appropriate.
4. To support Technical Assistance and Training activities which promote and support the intent of this Agreement.
5. To utilize the President's National Advisory Council on Children (PNACC) or related national councils which will serve to coordinate efforts within each agency to improve programs and services for children with special needs and their families.
6. To facilitate improved planning for all children, each agency will assist in gathering and sharing essential data and information.
7. That this Agreement shall remain in effect until terminated in writing by either party.

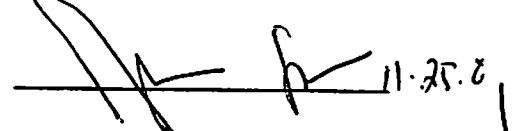
In witness Whereof, the parties agree to the terms and conditions herein as indicated by their respective signatures.

For the Department of Education

 11/18/09

**Honorable Casiano Shoniber
Secretary Department of Education**

**For The Department Of Health&Social
Affairs**

 11-25-09

**Honorable Vita Skilling, M.D.
Secretary Department of Health
Social Affairs**