

## Executive Summary

### License Agreement with the Children's Bereavement Center, Inc.

The Children's Bereavement Center, Inc. (CBC, Inc.) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in South Florida. The mission of the CBC, Inc., is to provide free of cost peer support groups to children, teens, adults, and families after a loss due to death. Founded in 1999, the CBC, Inc., has expanded from one site in Coconut Grove to all three counties of South Florida providing 10 support group locations and servicing over 1,500 individuals annually.

In the aftermath of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School mass shooting on February 14, 2017, the CBC, Inc., states that it has been working with community partners to provide ongoing, long-term grief support for the Parkland and Coral Springs communities. With the goal of establishing a grief support group site within the Parkland community, the CBC, Inc., will be hosting its weekly grief support groups at Heron Heights Elementary School located in the City of Parkland. This site will also provide a separate grief support group for educational professionals affected by the MSD School shooting. This month, the CBC, Inc., states that the American Psychological Association released an article stating that long-term support is critical in the well-being of individuals affected by a mass shooting. Since the CBC, Inc., provides all of its services free of cost for its participants, the CBC, Inc., is seeking a reciprocity agreement with The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC), in which SBBC provides the CBC, Inc., with space at Heron Heights Elementary School free of charge (i.e., \$0.00/weekly). Given the CBC's, Inc. 20-year track record of success and position with the South Florida community as being the only full-family grief support group organization, the CBC, Inc., believes that a reciprocal partnership with SBBC is imperative in meeting the long-term social and emotional needs of the Parkland and Coral Springs communities in the wake of this tragedy.

The CBC, Inc., model of grief support is grounded in theoretical literature on grief, bereavement, and positive psychology. Participants who attend the CBC, Inc., groups, meet weekly from 6:30-8:30 p.m. During that time, participants are provided a free pizza dinner followed by a 90-minute grief support group. Within each site location, a minimum of five groups operate which are separated out by age of the participants. These groups include lower elementary, upper elementary, middle school, high school, and adult. The separation of groups by age range allows for developmentally appropriate grief support. When needed, the CBC, Inc., also provide groups in Spanish and Creole. The CBC, Inc., support groups do not follow a particular curriculum and, instead, focus on their participants' current social and emotional needs as they are grieving.

Unlike other grief support groups, the CBC, Inc., model of grief support is unique for several reasons. First, its support groups include all types of loss due to death (i.e., accident, illness, homicide, and suicide) and does not separate groups based on type of loss. Second, participants are invited to participate in CBC, Inc., grief support groups at any time after the loss of a loved one. Third, participants are welcome to participate in CBC, Inc., support groups for however long the participants choose, and CBC, Inc., does not limit the number of support groups participants can attend. Finally, the CBC, Inc. states that it is the only grief support organization in South Florida that provides a full-family model of grief support. The participation of the full family in the CBC, Inc., grief support groups offers a building of cohesion within the family which allows for continued, ongoing support throughout the week and after their participation at the CBC, Inc.

Functionally, the CBC, Inc., states that it operates at several administrative levels which ensures the highest quality delivery of CBC, Inc., support group services. Within each group, a minimum of two group facilitators are included. One of these facilitators is a community volunteer, who has received a mandatory initial training provided by the CBC, Inc., Clinical Director, Dr. Daniel Sheridan. The second facilitator holds a minimum of a master's degree in a mental health field (e.g., mental health counseling, social work, psychology, etc.) and has also participated in the mandatory CBC, Inc., training. For children participants, the CBC, Inc., also provides art and music specialists. It should be noted, all CBC, Inc. volunteers and staff support group specialist are vetted and screened through the CBC, Inc. facilitator training program.

Facilitators at each site report to a site coordinator who manages site operations, completes administrative duties, and provides first contact with support group participants. Site coordinators also provide a one-hour supervision each week following group for all staff and volunteers. This site coordinator must be a licensed mental health professional. All site coordinators report to the CBC, Inc., Clinical Director, Dr. Daniel Sheridan, who is a licensed psychologist.

In lieu of collecting a monthly rental fee from CBC, Inc., District staff is proposing SBBC enter into an In-Kind Services License Agreement with CBC, Inc., which Agreement allows CBC, Inc. the ability to utilize its administrative costs (employee, products, services, etc.) needed to provide free peer support groups to children, young adults, adults, and the community in-lieu of making monthly rental payments. Annually, CBC, Inc. will be required to provide data to the District which shows CBC, Inc. administrative costs meet and/or exceed the cost allocated in School Board Policy 1341 Fee Schedule for use of cafeteria and classroom space. If the data shows that CBC, Inc. did not meet and/or exceed the cost in School Board Policy 1341, CBC, Inc. will be required to pay the difference between

the dollar amount provided for administrative costs and the costs called for in School Board Policy 1341. It should be noted, data provided by the CBC, Inc., which depicts its budget for the administrative costs to support the group site as relates to the License Agreement, currently totals over \$184,000 annually.