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MLC



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July 13, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED), Office of Social and Emotional Wellness (OSEW), to hold an organized meeting on September 19, 2023, at Mountain View Grand Resort Whitefield, N.H., (VC# TBD) and on September 20, 2023, at the Sheraton in Nashua, N.H. (VC# TBD), for an amount not to exceed \$219,364, to address the ongoing issue of bullying in New Hampshire schools, effective upon Governor and Council approval through September 30, 2023. 100% Federal Funds.

Funds to support this request are available in the account titled Project AWARE in FY2024 as follows:

06-56-56-562010-25080000-102-500731	<u>FY2024</u>
Contracts for Program Services	\$219,364

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) would like to host a conference to engage students, parents, school staff, and community members to address and problem-solve the increasing concerns regarding bullying. In the 2021-22 school year, NHED received 1,749 bullying incident reports and 302 cyberbullying incident reports that occurred in schools. Many students do not report the bullying incident to the school for fear of retaliation. Bullying causes depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, generalized anxiety, panic disorders, and suicidal ideation, as well as academic performance decline. Some of these effects might be experienced immediately, but often continue well into adulthood.

RSA 193-F:2 NH Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 amended in 2010 reaffirms that "one of the legislature's highest priorities is to protect our children from physical, emotional, and psychological violence by addressing the harm caused by bullying and cyber-bullying in our public schools". This conference will support the efforts to protect our students, provide them with the necessary skills, and increase resilience against bullying.

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The School Safety Preparedness Task Force established by Governor Christopher T. Sununu in March of 2018, has 59 recommendations and several new initiatives such as Initiative 8, Fostering Positive Relationships and Increasing Community Engagement which is tasked with:

- Developing ways to engage communities in school readiness through safety training and social-emotional learning
- Developing community outreach and awareness campaigns for initiatives such as bullying
- Engaging families and communities across platforms

A commitment to training and empowering students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community members is key to increasing positive climate and cultures. To prevent bullying in schools and communities, we must engage all constituents to assist in identifying issues and implementing solutions, and providing ongoing support. The conference will have separate tracks for students and adults.

What to expect for the student track:

- Highly engaging, interactive, and student-centered
- Students will be invited and encouraged to do pre-interviews with their classmates and teachers ahead of the summit
- Real examples of adolescents making positive and lasting changes in their schools will be shared
- Participants will set goals and present recommendations to adult community members
- Participants will be given ideas, tools, and instructions to host further student leadership training at their school

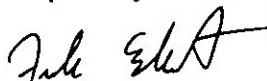
What to expect for the adult track:

- Engaging speakers that offer insights into student track development and violence prevention
- Opportunities to discuss community engagement surrounding school safety and social emotional learning
- Implementation strategies for Choose Love at the local level
- Community outreach and awareness campaign initiative ideas such as anti-bullying and resilience

Several hotels were contacted to find adequate space to hold the number of participants anticipated and the number of breakout rooms needed. The intension to offer this event in two regional locations to best serve the state was also a consideration. A significant challenge was that this event will not be providing any food for participants, as the purchase of food is not allowed with federal funds. Please see the attachment with the list of hotels contacted.

NHED will enter into contracts with vendors to support this event and submit to Governor and Council as required.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Edelblut
Commissioner of Education

Estimate of Costs

	Total
Mountain View Grand Hotel (VC TBD) room spaces, beverage station, complimentary audio-visual equipment	\$8,897
Sheraton in Nashua (VC TBD) room spaces, beverage station	\$6,955
American Audience Audio Visual Company (VC 461906) for Sheraton Nashua	\$5,735
Supplies markers, pens, pencils, easels, and post-it notes for adult track of the conference	\$1,500
Keynote Speaker and break out facilitators: from the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, Inc. (VC 370665) Includes preparing presentations and workshops, speaker fees, travel, lodging, and Choose Love Kits for all participants	\$64,000
Facilitators from: Brooklyn Raney, LLC DBA One Trusted Adult, LLC. (VC 354092) Includes preparing workshops and activities for entire day student track, 3p community cards, and BeBold online leadership training course to bring back and use at schools for ongoing support throughout the school year.	\$117,177
Media Power Youth (VC 270390) -preparing, presenting, printing resources traveling, and lodging	\$4,000
Irene Buchine (Woody Runs Publishing VC 461907) – preparing, presenting, traveling, and copies of Celia and the Little Boy, Books with discussion guide	\$8,400
NAMI (VC 166630) What You Say and How You Say It preparing, presenting, printing resources and travel for 2 facilitators	\$2,700
Total	\$219,364

Hotels Contacted

Grappone Center Concord	No space available in September
Concord Hotel	No space big enough
SNHU	No space available in September
White Mountain College (Berlin and Littleton)	No space available in September
National Guard Concord	No Space available in September
Bedford event center	No space without the purchase of food and couldn't meet capacity anticipated
Plymouth State	Not available in September
Residence Inn Portsmouth	Not enough breakout rooms require food purchase
North Conway Grant Hotel	No space in September

Draft Schedule for each location:

8-8:30	Registration
8:30-9:00	Welcome and overview of the day -Speaker TBD
9:00- 9:45	Keynote speaker (Scarlett Lewis) Choose Love
9:45-10:00	Break
10:00-11:30	<p>Student Track –</p> <p>Brooklyn Raney, LLC DBA, One Trusted Adult (OTA): Who We Are & How We Lead (Presentation/Table Activity)</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Brooklyn and two staff to facilitate the entire day’s large activities and the student track on leadership. Students will receive training on leadership skills in solving individual school issues, learn how to facilitate those discussions, and embed them into their school community. 3P cards and BeBold online course to support the work year-round.</p> <p>Adult Track – Breakout Speakers will hold a morning and afternoon session</p> <p>Confirmed Speakers: <i>Jessie Lewis Choose Love Movement Inc.:</i> Scarlett Lewis and two facilitators will facilitate the Learn to Live the Choose Love Formula</p> <p><i>U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Robert Mahoney, Regional Prevention Coordinator for Region 1 (New England) The Pathway to Violence presentation</i></p> <p><u>Description:</u> Robert will focus on the common observable behavioral indicators that individuals who have committed acts of violence demonstrated leading up to the attack as well as how a “Whole of Community” approach can be used to prevent such acts from occurring.</p> <p><i>Irene Buchine:</i></p> <p><u>Description:</u> Irene will discuss depression and share her book Celia and the Little Boy with an accompanying discussion guide for use in classrooms. Books will be provided to participants.</p> <p><i>Media Power Youth: Understanding and Preventing Cyberbullying</i></p> <p><u>Description</u> We all want to help youth navigate social norms and peer relationships; however, social media has added a new layer of complexity to growing up. Microaggressions, frenemies, and mean humor slip in and out of students’ social media feeds so fast that</p>

	<p>addressing them can feel like chasing smoke. Join Media Power Youth to discuss cyberbullying and other challenges children encounter in digital communities and learn strategies for supporting youth through these experiences. We will also explore proactive approaches that can help prevent these situations from happening. Media Power Youth is a New Hampshire-based nonprofit that provides media literacy-based learning opportunities and resources for children, educators, and parents.</p> <p><i>NAMI</i>: National Alliance on Mental Illness to present What You Say and How You Say It</p> <p>Description We have all been impacted by bullying. And we can use our lived experience to be the agents of change. We will discuss our journey and how we can collaborate with our youth to let go of shame and move forward with truth and kindness. How can we change the narrative and address this across all the ways we communicate? Let's find the words to create a culture of acceptance and diffuse the power of the bully.</p> <p>Other Potential speakers <i>awaiting</i> confirmation. <i>National Guard</i>: Help Everyone Achieve Respect</p>
11:45-12:00	Overview of the state of bullying in NH – Speaker TBD
12:00-12:45	Lunch on your own
12:45-1:15	Community Building (ideas to take back to your schools!) Activity to grow school connectedness that can be taken back and implemented locally to improve school climate
1:30-2:45	Student Track – What We Need & How We Get There (Presentation/Table Activity) Adult Track – Breakout Brainstorm (repeat of morning session)
2:45-3:45	Student track Presentations & Group Discussions (Prevention Strategies, Community Solutions, and Next Steps)
3:45-4:00	Closing remarks – Speaker TBD