

Memorandum of Understanding

Purpose:

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to define the relationship of the organizations working to identify and serve youth at SafeZone (SZ). This MOU only addresses functions related to the COMBAT funded portion of services and purposes.

History:

In 2021, Jackson County COMBAT convened a meeting at the Raytown School District Administration Building, to discuss the identified "hot spot" of violent crime in Raytown, Missouri and potential remedy for that issue. Among those invited were representatives of neighborhood associations, community agencies, the Raytown School District, the Raytown School Board, the Raytown Police Department, Sisters In Christ Resource Hub, City of Raytown Mayor, and churches in the area. The group continued to meet throughout the year.

These discussions led to several assumptions:

- A large increase of violent crimes in Raytown were committed;
- Raytown has the highest crime rates in America compared to all communities of all sizes.
- Youth who were unsupervised after school were in danger of becoming victims of crimes or accidents.
- There was also a lack of COMBAT sponsored programs in the area.
- Students in Raytown Schools are performing below the state average.
- Youth and families in the area could benefit from the availability of wrap-around services, including mental health and/or substance abuse services.

A conclusion was the need for the identification or establishment of an agency to serve the above function and coordinate the availability of these services. Sisters In Christ "Striving" Resource Hub agreed to provide a location of the services. The project was given the name, SafeZone (SZ), which officially opened its doors in July 2019. SafeZone is to offer a continuum of drug/violence prevention services ranging from: mentoring, tutoring, counseling, college assistance, ACT prep, referrals, recreation, employment opportunities and other prevention and intervention services based on the need. SafeZone intends to serve 50 youth and families in 2021 and 2022.

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Those identified as At Risk - e.g., at risk for long term suspension by Raytown School District; identified by Raytown Police Department as potentially involved in crime, referred by parents, and "associates" of those committing crime but no current case by the City of Raytown courts will be referred to the SafeZone hub. These youth are anticipated to need intervention services. And youth who can benefit from supervised activities during non-school hours.

This Consortium will support and strengthen children and youth by linking services to be provided at SafeZone, coordinated for the use of youth and families in the City of Raytown. The roles and responsibilities of each partnering organization are listed below. This agreement between the signatory organizations shall be from August 16, 2021 through August 15, 2022 OR until terminated by mutual accord. This agreement will be reevaluated on a yearly basis.

All members shall be responsible for data collection and sharing within the guidelines of their organizations, with the exception of the City of Raytown Family Court Division. Signatories to this Memorandum of Understanding and Responsibilities

SafeZone will be responsible for:

- Serving approximately 50 youth and families in 2021 and 2022 primarily aged 12-19. These may include those referred by other agencies and those who come to SafeZone on their own
- Providing staff to perform screening assessments for youth who are referred by partnering agencies
- Receiving referrals from partnering agencies that will be coordinated between SafeZone staff and partner agencies with timelines and out dates, to ensure swift and thorough attention to the needs of the youth and their families
- Providing supportive services for youth that have not been involved in the legal process. The needs range from mentoring, tutoring, employment opportunities, anger management, life skills, parenting skills, positive relationships, grief counseling, children of incarcerated parents, substance abuse prevention and recovery, violence prevention, re-entry support, suicide prevention, and college assistance
- Provide opportunities that allow for youth leadership development and strategies to create a safer, drug-free and violence free community in the City of Raytown

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- Provide Harvesters Raytown Food Distribution for the community in March 2021 through October 2021. The distribution will be every 3rd Saturday of the month
- Provide annual evaluation and monthly reports to COMBAT and other local agencies as requested
- Provide signatures for the youth as confirmation of their sentence completion for City of Raytown Family Court
- All staff who work with students will complete a background check

Sisters In Christ "Striving" Resource Hub will be responsible for:

- Serving as fiscal agent to SafeZone handling all fiduciary responsibilities for the space, staff, and facilities
- Recruiting additional partnership opportunities and activities
- Assessing the mental health and substance abuse needs of referred children and adolescents. Providing individual, family, group, and psychiatric services to those opting to utilize treatment services
- Working with the community to provide resources to address substance abuse and mental health issues, including violence
- Reporting back to referral sources on status of referrals
- Providing data on COMBAT funded referrals
- Meet monthly with the middle school principals and the assigned personnel that will handle the referral process for the School District

Jackson County COMBAT will be responsible for:

- Identifying COMBAT resources or COMBAT funded resources that may advance the mission of SafeZone
- Convening stakeholders to keep them aware of the progress of SafeZone and brainstorm additional needs
- Providing direct services that can appropriately be contributed by COMBAT
- Continuing active participation on SafeZone and future collaboration efforts designed to assist in reducing violent crime in the City of Raytown

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The Raytown School District will be responsible for:

- Continuing active participation in the SafeZone project and future collaboration efforts
- Collaborating with COMBAT partners to serve students at SafeZone
- Disseminating information to students and families related to programs and/or services provided through SafeZone
- Referring students in grades 6 - 12 that meet and are at-risk suspended for a long/short term period based on SafeZone criteria
- Providing non student identifiable data necessary for evaluation, specific to SafeZone participation
- Working with COMBAT partners in the development and delivery of positive youth development activities
- All personnel will attend monthly Strivin Hub meetings with the Director of Support Services

The Raytown Police Department will be responsible for:

- Collaborating with all partners in SafeZone Project
- Identifying at risk youth in the Raytown Patrol Division
- Conducting messaging to the parents or guardians of youth in crisis when contacted on a 911 Call for Service
- Referring youth to SafeZone that are identified for long/short term suspension by the Raytown School District

City of Raytown Family Court will be responsible for:

- Collaborating with COMBAT and SafeZone in providing information regarding Family Court services and processes to youth and families from the area
- Providing information regarding services about SafeZone through Family Court's Prevention and Diversion and/or Area III Probation to divert youth from the area
- Participating in meetings with other community stakeholders by sending a representative from the Juvenile Officer's legal unit, case assessment, and/or Prevention and Diversion to the meetings
- Referring adjudicated youth from the area to complete an intake with SafeZone as a part of their sentence so that both the youth and custodians can learn of resources available

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- Providing forms to youth to document and gain signatures from SafeZone representatives as confirmation of their sentence completion
- Provide information to COMBAT about sentence completion including intake referrals to SafeZone. Youth who fail to complete an intake with SafeZone as ordered will be counted as failing to complete their sentence and will be referred back to the Juvenile Office for further disposition.
- Participate with SafeZone in determining appropriate Community Service opportunities in the area for Youth Court participants.

COMBAT	Vincent M. Ortega	6/3/2021 <i>Vincent M. Ortega</i>
Organization	Organization Representative's Name	Date and Signature
<i>Raymond</i>	<i>Brian Hall</i>	<i>[Signature]</i> 6/3/21
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