

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
Prevent Blindness America  
And  
The Office of Head Start**

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby made and entered into by and between Prevent Blindness America (PBA), hereinafter referred to as PBA; and the Office of Head Start (OHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), US Department of Health and Human Services, hereinafter referred to as, OHS.

**A. PURPOSE**

Vision disorders are a leading cause of impaired conditions in childhood. If not detected early, pediatric vision problems can lead to a variety of difficulties. The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework for the collaboration between PBA and OHS to improve the vision health of Head Start and Early Head Start children. PBA affiliates will inform Head Start programs about vision screening services and other resources available to them in their community. As a result, through accurate vision screening and follow up, a vast number of children in need of vision health services will be reached.

**B. STATEMENT OF MUTAL BENEFITS**

PBA, a volunteer health agency which was founded in 1908, has a mission to prevent blindness and preserve the sight of all Americans. This mission includes public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening training, community and patient service programs and research. A key element of PBA's nationwide promotion of a continuum of vision care is its development of a series of vision screening courses that address both pediatric and adult eye care. PBA is committed to seeing a standard level of care provided across programs, achieved through its certification program. This certification program includes protocols that are determined by the PBA board of directors, based on the recommendations of experts in vision care from across the nation. A partnership with OHS would allow PBA to promote quality screening practices within the Early Childhood community.

The Head Start Program Performance Standards require vision screening, along with other sensory, behavioral and developmental screenings that must be completed within 45 days from the child's entry into the program. Vision screening is also part of the required Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment services under Medicaid; however some providers do not provide this screening at the three or four year old visit. For this reason Head Start programs find a variety of ways to meet this screening requirement contributing to a struggle to have consistent and accurate screenings. The training and materials provided by PBA would assist Head Start programs in their efforts to conduct vision screenings in a consistent and accurate manner.

**C. PREVENT BLINDNESS SHALL:**

- I. Make available to OHS a list of PBA State Affiliates and National Divisions for this MOU, and encourage their affiliates to engage in local screening and training partnership efforts with Head Start programs.
- II. As feasible, present information regarding PBA and their efforts at various Head Start state, regional and/or national conferences.
- III. Provide Head Start grantees training and technical assistance for vision screening through a variety of manners, to include conducting "Train the Trainer" workshops and, when appropriate, training Head Start staff and/or volunteers to conduct screenings.
- IV. When and where appropriate, PBA staff may serve as members of local Head Start or Early Head Start Health Services Advisory Committees.

**D. OFFICE OF HEAD START SHALL:**

- I. Make available a list of Head Start grantees and ACF Regional Office training and technical assistance providers to PBA.
- II. Make PBA information on training, equipment and possibility of provision of services to Head Start grantees available through the ACF Regional Office training and technical assistance providers, and the OHS web site, the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center.
- III. Inform State Collaboration offices about local PBA Affiliates and Divisions and the potential opportunities for training and provision of services by PBA.
- IV. Support PBA practices as one way to appropriately meet the vision screening portion of the Head Start Program Performance Standard 1304.20(b)(1).

**E. IT IS MUTALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES THAT:**

- I. Nothing in this MOU in and of itself obligates OHS or PBA to expend any appropriations or to enter into any contract assistance agreement, interagency agreement or to incur other financial obligations. Any endeavor between the two parties will be managed in accordance with applicable laws, regulations procedures and are subject to appropriate funds and each agencies budget priorities.
- II. PBA and OHS, and their respective agencies and offices, will manage their own activities and utilize their own resources including the expenditure of their own funds in pursuing the objectives outline.
- III. This instrument in no way restricts OHS or PBA from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations or individuals.
- IV. This MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity against OHS or PBA, their officers, employees, or any other person. This MOU does not direct or apply to any person outside the Office of Head Start or Prevent Blindness America.

**F. PROCEDURES FOR ADMENDMENT, REVISION AND TERMINATION**

- I. This MOU takes effect upon the signature of both parties and shall remain in effect until termination by either party.
- II. Any party may withdraw from this agreement by giving notice to the other party in writing.
- III. The provisions within the MOU may be modified within the scope of this agreement by mutual consent of all parties, by the issuance of written modifications, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.

**G. PRINCIPLE CONTACTS**

Office of Head Start

Robin Brocato  
Office of Head Start  
1250 Maryland Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20024  
(202) 205-9903  
Robin.Brocato@acf.hhs.gov

Prevent Blindness America

Jeff Todd  
Prevent Blindness America  
211 W. Wacker Drive, #1700  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(312) 363-6026  
jtodd@preventblindness.org

**H. THE PARTIES HERERTO have executed this instrument**

Office of Head Start

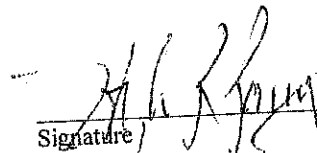
Patricia Brown  
Acting Director

Prevent Blindness America

Hugh R. Parry  
President & CEO

  
Signature

10/31/08  
Date

  
Signature

11/10/08  
Date