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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Juvenile Court Partners with Troup County School System and area Law Enforcement to Update “Handle with Care” MOU

LaGrange, Ga., February 2, 2022 – Troup County Juvenile Court Judge R. Michael Key met with Troup County School System (TCSS) representatives on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 to sign the “Handle with Care” updated protocol. The ceremony was held at 2:00pm at the Troup County School System Administration Building located at 100 North Davis Road, LaGrange, GA 30241.

“Handle with Care” helps to further implement an initiative aimed at addressing children’s exposure to violence and trauma. This project directly addresses the goal of mitigating these negative impacts of exposure to trauma when it does occur, by providing support and on-site, trauma focused interventions by school staff and/or mental health providers, if necessary, to children identified by local law enforcement and school personnel.

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) will focus on notification to the school system by law enforcement when a child is exposed to trauma in the home or in the community to enable the child’s school to handle the child with care upon his or her arrival at school the next school day following the incident.

Recently, Judge Key met with local Law Enforcement and TCSS representatives to discuss the current “Handle with Care” protocol and whether any changes were needed. All parties agreed that the confidential notification system has been successful in carefully addressing children’s exposure to violence and trauma. However, it was recognized that the Marshal’s Office handles evictions and animal control calls within Troup County, and that those processes can be traumatizing to most children. Therefore, the updated protocol will include the Marshal’s Office as a notifying agency within this MOU.

About Troup County School System

Troup County School System is an accredited educational system with over 12,100 students in grades K-12. TCSS does offer a free Pre-K program at each elementary school. The system is comprised of eleven elementary schools, three middle schools, three high schools, one college and career academy, and one alternative learning center. Students within the school system are taught a rigorous and relevant curriculum that helps them make college and career choices beyond graduation and succeed in life. The system 2021 graduation rate is 85.9 percent. To learn more about Troup County School System, visit troupp.org and the Troup County School System Facebook page.

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