**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

**Between**

**The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC)**

**And**

**The** \*\*\**Your State*\*\*\* **Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (**\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\* **DEC)**

**The Purpose of this MOU is to:**

1. Recognize the establishment of the **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** Drug Endangered Children Alliance;
2. Formalize the inclusion of **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC as a National DEC affiliated State DEC Alliance; and
3. Acknowledge the on-going partnership between National DEC and **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC.

**Whereas:**

The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC) defines drug endangered children as children who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm as a result of illegal drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution. They may also be children whose caretaker’s substance misuse interferes with the caretaker’s ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment.

The mission of National DEC is to break the cycle of abuse and neglect by empowering practitioners who work to transform the lives of children and families living in drug environments. National DEC works to strengthen community capacity to help drug endangered children by working to establish a national network of Local, State, and Tribal DEC alliances, and coordinating with these alliances on the provision of training and technical assistance and other resources.

National DEC provides training and technical assistance to all those in the community who assist and care for drug endangered children. By working together and leveraging resources, we can provide drug endangered children opportunities to live in safe and nurturing environments free from abuse and neglect.

Key to this effort is the growing number of State Drug Endangered Children Alliances. These alliances provide DEC training and conferences, help establish local DEC alliances, develop protocols and guidelines, and bring practitioners together to create effective collaboration that changes how cases involving drugs and children are handled in our communities.

**And, Whereas:**

Dedicated individuals and key members of Local, State, and Federal agencies and entities in **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\***:

* have worked diligently to raise awareness about the problem of drug endangered children;
* have identified leadership for a statewide DEC effort;
* have established multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional support;
* have gained participation of policy-makers;
* have developed an organizational structure;
* have established a working partnership with National DEC and both parties desire an on-going joint effort; and,
* are committed to furthering the DEC mission throughout **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** to the benefit of drug endangered children and families.

**Now, therefore, the parties to this MOU agree as follows:**

* The **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** Drug Endangered Children Alliance is established as a functioning statewide alliance;
* The **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** Drug Endangered Children Alliance is a National DEC affiliated State DEC Alliance; and
* National DEC and **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC will work in partnership to advance the DEC mission within South Carolina and throughout the nation.

**Furthermore, the parties to this MOU agree that:**

They will support each other in every way possible, including but not limited to the following:

* **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC will be listed with contact information on National DEC’s website as an established State DEC Alliance;
* National DEC will provide training and technical assistance to help the development of **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC as with other State DEC Alliances;
* **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC will share promising DEC practices with National DEC’s network, grantors, and affiliated State, Tribal, and Local DEC alliances;
* National DEC will share promising DEC practices, potential funding sources, DEC resources, and staff expertise with **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC;
* **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC will participate in National DEC’s monthly “DEC Connect” calls and, as resources allow, DEC Leaders’ Summit meetings to help develop a national network of DEC professionals and alliances;
* **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC will submit information to National DEC annually for inclusion in a “State DEC Alliance Annual Report”;
* National DEC will share the accomplishments of **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** DEC with our DEC Network, potential grantors, and national partners;

**Further, the parties to this MOU agree that:**

Nothing in this MOU will be construed as limiting or affecting in any way the authority or legal responsibility of either party, or as binding a party to perform beyond its available resources. Each party retains the sole discretion to determine its ability to comply with the terms of this MOU. This MOU is not a contractual agreement and does not impose any liability on either party for non-compliance.

This MOU shall be effective when signed by both parties and may be formally terminated by either party following 30 days written notice to the undersigned representative or successor representative of the other party.

**Agreed to and accepted by:**

**For the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Noerenberg, President

National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

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 Date

For the **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** Alliance for Drug Endangered Children:

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 **\*\*\**Your State*\*\*\*** Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

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 Date