

**AN AGREEMENT**

**between**

**SUWANNEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**

**and**

**Smith & Sorenson, LLC**

**D/B/A**

**Rising Oaks Assisted Living**

**Live Oak, Florida**

This Agreement begins on July 1, 2022, between the Suwannee County School Board (SCSB) and Smith & Sorenson, LLC, D/B/A Rising Oaks Assisted Living, Live Oak, Florida (Healthcare Agency).

Whereas, SCSB, through the RIVEROAK Technical College (RTC), operates a Patient Care Technician program, Practical Nurse Education program, and Certified Nursing Assistant Program for qualified students preparing to be Patient Care Technicians, Practical Nurses, and/or Certified Nursing Assistants; and,

Whereas, SCSB and the Healthcare Agency have agreed jointly to participate in a program in which Patient Care Technician, Practical Nurse, and Certified Nursing Assistant students may acquire clinical experience at the facilities of the Healthcare Agency; and,

Whereas, the parties share the mutual goal of high quality patient care and health sciences education;

Now, therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants and obligations as set forth herein, the parties agree as follows:

**I. GENERAL CONDITIONS**

1. The Healthcare Agency and the SCSB expressly agree that all faculty and students under the program shall remain agents or students of the RTC. The RTC agrees that it will never act or represent it is acting as an agent of the Healthcare Agency or incur any obligations on the part of the Healthcare Agency without first obtaining the express written authority of the Administrator. The Healthcare Agency agrees that it will not be responsible for any salaries, taxes, or insurance of the RTC faculty, agents, or students.
2. The Healthcare Agency and RTC concur that this agreement may be cancelled at any time by either party hereto, with or without cause upon 30 days written notice to the other party.
3. The Healthcare Agency and RTC concur that this agreement shall continue in effect for the period of 12 months beginning on July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; and shall be renewed from year to year unless otherwise notified in writing as in paragraph #2 above.

4. No alteration, modification, or variation of the terms of this agreement shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by both of the parties hereto.
5. The Healthcare Agency and the RTC agree that executed copies of this agreement shall be placed on file with the Administrator of the Healthcare Agency and the Director of the RTC.
6. The SCSB agrees to require the student to maintain professional liability insurance with single limit liability coverage of not less than \$1,000,000.00/\$3,000,000.00.
7. The SCSB agrees to provide a certificate of liability insurance for the faculty members in the performance of their duties and responsibilities at the Healthcare Agency.
8. The SCSB holds the Healthcare Agency harmless from any acts of negligence of the instructors and students while in the Healthcare Agency facility within the scope of the Practical Nurse Education program.

## **II. THE HEALTHCARE AGENCY'S RESPONSIBILITY**

1. To share in the responsibility for the education of health care students in the Practical Nurse Education program through the cooperation and assistance of its staff and employees along with the faculty and students of the RTC.
2. Students shall be selected for the programs by the RTC.
3. To make available to faculty and students of the RTC the use of its facilities the same as to its own personnel.
4. To make available whenever possible to faculty and students of the RTC all of its facilities and services in the planned learning experiences of the aforementioned programs.
5. To provide conference and meeting rooms as required and needed, if available, and not being used for other purposes by the Healthcare Agency.
6. To include faculty members of the program in their staff meetings when policies to be discussed affect or directly relate to the programs.
7. Instruction under the program(s) shall be at the time agreed by the parties to this contract and in agreement with the school curriculum calendar.
8. The responsibility for the patient remains with the Healthcare Agency.

## **III. THE RTC'S RESPONSIBILITY**

1. The operation of programs will comply with established policies and practices of the Healthcare Agency, including all applicable legislation and regulations.

2. Ascribes to equal access/equal opportunity; endorses non-discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or marital status. To assign students and faculty to the Healthcare Agency based on this statement.
3. To maintain standards of the programs as recommended and prescribed by all governing bodies and accrediting agencies regulating the programs.
4. To comply with and require, if necessary, physical examination, chest x-rays, and certain immunizations as deemed necessary by the Healthcare Agency or other such authority relative to the programs prior to entrance upon premises under the programs.
5. To employ qualified employees in the programs as administrators and instructors. The RTC agrees to the responsibility of interpreting the objectives of the programs to the students, consulting with administrative personnel of the Healthcare Agency in advance about use of the various facilities, and conferring with appropriate members of the Healthcare Agency staff in selecting patients to provide the learning experiences desired for students.
6. To be responsible for the educational supervision of students in the program.
7. The Healthcare Agency may, at any time, direct withdrawal of any faculty or student from the institution facilities or premises whose conduct or performance is not in accord with the standards of the RTC and its programs, or is unprofessional and detrimental to the Healthcare Agency. This request for withdrawal shall be submitted in writing, following a verbal request, to the appropriate school administrator. The RTC agrees that it will maintain the requisite degree of discipline among its students and faculty, giving full consideration to the Healthcare Agency's standard of conduct and performance.
8. Maintain individual records of classes, student activities, and competencies.
9. Maintain strict confidentiality regarding all patient-centered information.
10. Prepare any rotational plans for services to be used for experience and to secure the approval of this plan from the Healthcare Agency prior to the commencing of the educational program under the agreement. Substantive changes in the program will not be effective until such time as they shall be approved by the Healthcare Agency.

#### **IV. HIPAA REQUIREMENTS**

The Provider agrees to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, as codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1320d (“HIPAA”) and any current and future regulations promulgated thereunder including without limitation the federal privacy regulations contained in 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164 (the “Federal Privacy Regulations”), the federal security standards contained in 45 C.F.R. Part 142 (the “Federal Security Regulations”), and the federal standards for electronic transactions contained in 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 162, all collectively referred to herein as “HIPAA Requirements”. The Provider agrees not to use or further disclose any Protected Health Information (as defined in 45 C.F.R. Section 164.501) or Individually Identifiable Health Information (as defined in 42 U.S.C. Section 1320d), other than as permitted by HIPAA Requirements and the terms of this Agreement.

The Healthcare Agency will make its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the extent required for determining compliance with the Federal Privacy Regulations.

**V. LIABILITY OF PARTIES**

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create a joint venture, agency or other legal relationship between the Healthcare Agency and RTC which could result in either party being responsible or liable for the acts or omissions of the other party.
2. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to create an employer/employee relationship between the RTC students and the Healthcare Agency.
3. Nothing contained in this Agreement is intended to serve as a waiver of sovereign immunity by any party to which sovereign immunity may be applicable.

**VI. INDEMNIFICATION**

1. The Healthcare Agency shall indemnify and hold harmless SCSB and RTC from and against any and all claims, liabilities, damages, and expenses including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by SCSB in defending actions brought against it arising out of or related to the acts or omissions of the Healthcare Agency, its agents, officers, or employees in the provision of services or performance of duties by the Healthcare Agency pursuant to this Agreement.

**VII. GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE**

- 1.1 This Agreement will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. In the event of any litigation arising from this Agreement, the Parties agree that the exclusive state court forum for said litigation shall be in Suwannee County, in the court of appropriate jurisdiction.
- 1.2 The parties hereby knowingly, voluntarily and intentionally waive any right it may have to a trial by jury with respect to any litigation related to or arising out of, under, or in conjunction with this Agreement.

**VIII. PUBLIC RECORDS**

For all contractors as set forth in Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes see EXHIBIT A which is incorporated by reference herein.

**IX. RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS**

The Healthcare Agency assures that student data will be handled with confidentiality as required by Florida Statute 1002.22.

**X. FORCE MAJEURE**

Except for payment of sums due, neither party shall be liable to the other nor deemed in default under this Agreement if and to the extent that such party's performance under this Agreement is rendered impossible, impractical, or prevented by reason of force majeure. For purposes of this Agreement, the term "force majeure" means an occurrence that is beyond the control of the party affected and occurs without fault or negligence on behalf of either party. Without limiting the foregoing, force majeure includes acts of God, acts of the public enemy, war, riots, strikes, labor disputes, civil disorders, fires, floods, hurricanes, epidemics, pandemics, government regulations, and the issuance or extension of existing government orders of the United States, the State of Florida, or local county and municipal governing bodies, which prevents performance of the contract for all or part of the 2022-2023 academic year.

**XI. E-Verify. Effective July 1, 2020**

- A. Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 448.095, Contractor shall use the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system, <https://e-verify.uscis.gov/emp>, to verify the employment eligibility of all employees **hired on or after January 1, 2021** during the term of this Agreement.
- B. Subcontractors
  - (i) Contractor shall also require all subcontractors performing work under this Agreement to use the E-Verify system for any employees they may hire during the term of this Agreement.
  - (ii) Subcontractors shall provide Contractor with an affidavit stating the subcontractor does not employ, contract with, or subcontract with an unauthorized alien, as defined by Fla. Stat. § 448.095.
  - (iii) Contractor shall provide a copy of such affidavit to the School Board upon receipt and shall maintain a copy for the duration of the Agreement.
- C. Contractor must provide evidence of compliance with Fla. Stat. § 448.095 by January 1, 2021. Evidence may consist of, but is not limited to, providing notice of Contractor's E-Verify number.

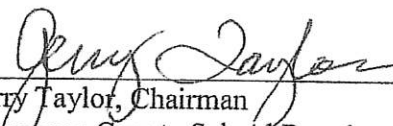
Failure to comply with this provision is a material breach of the Agreement, and School Board may choose to terminate the Agreement at its sole discretion. Contractor may be liable for all costs associated with School Board securing the same services, inclusive, but not limited to, higher costs for the same services and rebidding costs (if necessary).


SCSB 2023-21 (RENEWAL)

The Healthcare Agency and the RTC agree that copies of any revisions or modifications of this agreement, after execution by the parties, shall have the effect of modifying the terms of this agreement.


**SUWANNEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
1740 Ohio Avenue, South  
Live Oak, Florida 32064

BY:  DATE: JUN 28 2022  
Ted L. Roush  
Superintendent of Schools

BY:  DATE: JUN 28 2022  
Jerry Taylor, Chairman  
Suwannee County School Board

"Approved as to Form and Sufficiency  
BY   
Leonard J. Dietzen, III  
Rumberger, Kirk & Caldwell, P.A.  
Suwannee School Board Attorney"

Smith & Sorenson, LLC  
D/B/A  
Rising Oaks Assisted Living  
201 Ranchera Street N.W.  
Live Oak, Florida 32064

BY:  DATE: 07/27/2022  
TITLE: Executive Director / Regional Administrator

**EXHIBIT A**

**Public Records Law Requirements  
under Chapter 119.0701, Florida Statutes**

**IF THE CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, HE OR SHE MUST CONTACT THE DISTRICT'S CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS, VICKIE MUSIC DePRATTER, CPA, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, AT 386-647-4609, [VICKIE.DEPRATTER@SUWANNEE.K12.FL.US](mailto:VICKIE.DEPRATTER@SUWANNEE.K12.FL.US), OR 1740 OHIO AVENUE SOUTH, LIVE OAK, FL 32064.**

If you are a contractor as defined by Section 119.0701(1)(a), Florida Statutes, you must comply with Florida's public records law.

You must keep and maintain public records required by the School District to perform the contracted services.

Upon request from the School District's Custodian of public records, you must provide the District with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Chapter 119 or otherwise provided by law.

You must ensure that public records which are *exempt or confidential and exempt* from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the contract term and following completion of the contract, if the contractor does not transfer the records to the District.

Upon completion of the contract, you must transfer, at no cost, to the District all public records in possession of the contractor or continue to keep and maintain public records required by the District to perform the contracted services. See Section 119.0701(2)(b)4, Florida Statutes, for additional record keeping requirements.

**REQUEST FOR RECORDS RELATING TO DISTRICT'S CONTRACT FOR SERVICES**

A request to inspect or copy public records relating to a District's contract for services must be made directly to the District's records custodian. If the District does not possess the requested records, the District shall immediately notify the contractor of the request, and the contractor must provide the records to the District or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time.

If contractor does not timely comply with the District's request for records, the District shall be able to sue for breach of contract and the prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney's fees.

A contractor who fails to provide the requested public records to the District within a reasonable time may be subject to penalties under Section 119.10, Florida Statutes.