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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

New grant will help EPISD students prevent, cope with domestic and sexual violence issues

EL PASO, TEXAS — The Center Against Sexual and Family Violence – in collaboration with the El Paso Independent School District, the El Paso Child Guidance Center and Big Brothers Big Sisters of El Paso – are partnering to provide prevention and coping strategies for students who may be victims or have been exposed to sexual abuse and domestic or dating violence.

A \$750,000 grant from the Office on Violence Against Women will fund ongoing services targeting EPISD students ages 6 through 18 who may need information and services provided by the Center Against Sexual and Family Violence (CASFV), which will be the lead in the project.

A kick-off announcement of the partnership is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at Andress High School, 5400 Sun Valley Dr.

The grant will help CASFV and its partners to develop and implement strategies that will help EPISD students who are victims or may be exposed to violence cope. The program also will engage boys and young men to create awareness among them and help them become advocates against violence toward women.

EPISD and CASFV have enjoyed a long-standing partnership aimed at combating domestic and dating violence among students. Since last year, CASFV experts have worked with health teachers at Andress High School to incorporate gender identity and violence prevention into the lessons there.

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