

**CITY OF BILOXI
AGENDA ITEM
FACT SHEET**

Item No.: 5R

Council Meeting Date: July 21, 2026

ITEM TITLE: RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED BY: Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich

CONTACT PERSON: Richard Weaver, Chief Administrative Officer

Peter Abide, Director of the Legal Department

SUMMARY EXPLANATION:

Resolution authorizing entry into OVW 2026 Justice for Families Memorandum of Understanding with the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, et al.

Resolution ☒ Ordinance ☐ Public Hearing ☐ Routine Agenda ☐

Exhibits for Review

Contract ☒ Minutes ☐ Plans/Maps ☐ Deed ☐ Lease ☐

Other (Specify): Exhibit A: OVW 2026 Justice for Families Memorandum of Understanding

Submittal Authorization: Council President ☐ Mayor ☒

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion By: _____ Second By: _____

Vote:	Councilmember	Yes	No	AFR	ABST	Councilmember	Yes	No	AFR	ABST
	Gray	_____	_____	_____	_____	Tisdale	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Marshall	_____	_____	_____	_____	Glavan	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Nail	_____	_____	_____	_____	Shoemaker	_____	_____	_____	_____
	Creel	_____	_____	_____	_____					

ACTION TAKEN:

072126lcon

Resolution No.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO OVW 2026 JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE GULF COAST CENTER FOR
NONVIOLENCE, *ET AL.*

WHEREAS, the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, Inc. (“GCCFN”) is requesting grant funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, under the Office on Violence Against Women (“OVW”) FY 2026 Justice for Families Program and, if funding is awarded, will lead a collaborative project designed to strengthen court and community responses to family violence, improve access to civil legal assistance and advocacy services, enhance offender accountability, expand supervised visitation and safe exchange services, and increase access to culturally responsive services for underserved populations throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast region;

WHEREAS, in order to receive such funding, it is necessary that GCCFN provide proof of support and collaboration with the local courts and community it serves;

WHEREAS, under the OVW 2026 Justice for Families Memorandum of Understanding (the “MOU”), attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” the City’s Municipal Court will work with GCCFN, and its partners, to improve safety, access to justice, and supportive services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child abuse;

WHEREAS, no monetary match is being requested from the City; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of Peter C. Abide, Director of the Legal Department, that the City enter the MOU.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: The findings, conclusions, and statements contained in the preamble of this Resolution are hereby approved, adopted, and ratified.

SECTION TWO: The Mayor, on behalf of the City of Biloxi, is hereby authorized to execute the OVW 2026 Justice for Families Memorandum of Understanding, attached hereto as Exhibit "A," with the Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence, et al.

SECTION THREE: This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after adoption.

**OVW FY 2026 JUSTICE FOR FAMILIES PROGRAM
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**EXHIBIT
A**

The Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence (GCCFN), City of Biloxi, Boat People SOS (BPSOS), Alternative Sentencing and Probation (ASAP), The Junction Nonprofit (JGC), and the cities of Long Beach, Pascagoula, and Gautier agree to collaborate in the implementation of the OVW FY 2026 Justice for Families Project. GCCFN will serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent. This project is also supported by the following municipalities:

This memorandum of understanding works in collaboration with our community partners who have provided letters of commitment for this project. These partners include: Biloxi Municipal Court, D'Iberville Municipal Court, Pass Christian Municipal Court, Waveland Municipal Court, Pascagoula Municipal Court, Moss Point Municipal Court, Ocean Springs Municipal Court, Long Beach Municipal Court, Gautier Municipal Court, Diamondhead Municipal Court, Hancock County Justice Court, Harrison County Justice Court, Jackson County Justice Court, Harrison County Chancery Court, and Jackson County Chancery Court. Signatures for the memorandum of understanding could not be contained from all units of government due to the time commitments required for presenting the document to each City Council and Boards of Supervisors individually. Approval and signatures can be obtained and submitted as a deliverable if this project is chosen for funding.

1. Collaborative Partnership

The partners have a longstanding history of working together to improve safety, access to justice, and supportive services for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child abuse. GCCFN has provided court advocacy, legal services, victim advocacy, and community-based services throughout Harrison County and the Mississippi Gulf Coast for decades. Municipal, Justice, and Chancery court partners, culturally specific organizations, offender management agencies, and supervised visitation providers have collaborated with GCCFN through referrals, coordinated responses, training initiatives, and victim service activities.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The partners agree to implement the activities described in the FY 2026 Justice for Families Proposal Narrative and Budget.

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence

- Serve as lead applicant, fiscal agent, and overall project administrator.
- Provide project leadership, strategic direction, fiscal oversight, grant management, reporting, data collection, and performance monitoring.
- Employ and supervise project-funded personnel, including the Court Liaison-Offender Management Specialist, Community Advocacy Program Manager, Community Advocates, and Bilingual Advocate.
- Coordinate High-Risk Teams, multidisciplinary case reviews, and offender accountability initiatives.
- Operate the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) and oversee referrals, enrollment monitoring, and compliance reporting.

- Provide court-based advocacy, victim advocacy, safety planning, legal advocacy referrals, and early engagement services for victims identified through courts and law enforcement.
- Coordinate training, protocol development, policy review, and evaluation activities among project partners.
- Facilitate communication among courts, probation officers, advocates, supervised visitation providers, and community partners.
- Prepare and submit all OVW reports and ensure compliance with federal grant requirements.

Boat People SOS (BPSOS)

- Provide culturally specific outreach, advocacy, interpretation, translation, and court support services for Vietnamese American and other underserved survivors.
- Assist survivors with navigation of court systems, victim services, and community resources.
- Conduct culturally responsive outreach and education activities throughout the service area.
- Participate in project training, coordinated response activities, and systems improvement efforts.
- Assist GCCFN and court partners in addressing language access and cultural barriers that affect victim safety and access to justice.
- Provide interpretation and translation services to support meaningful participation in court and project activities.
- Track outreach, service delivery, and referral outcomes for project reporting purposes.

ASAP

- Participate in High-Risk Teams and multidisciplinary offender case reviews.
- Provide specialized offender supervision, monitoring, and compliance oversight for domestic violence offenders.
- Coordinate with GCCFN and participating courts regarding offender compliance, victim safety concerns, and intervention needs.
- Refer court-ordered offenders to the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) and monitor participation.
- Participate in offender accountability planning, probation reviews, and court compliance hearings when appropriate.
- Assist in identifying high-risk offenders for enhanced monitoring and intervention.
- Provide offender supervision data and compliance information to support project evaluation and performance measurement.

The Junction Nonprofit

- Provide supervised visitation and safe exchange services for families impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and child abuse.
- Maintain a secure, child-focused facility that complies with OVW Safe Havens Guiding Principles.

- Employ trained supervised visitation personnel and maintain safety protocols, confidentiality standards, and emergency response procedures.
- Coordinate referrals from participating Municipal, Justice, and Chancery Courts.
- Participate in multidisciplinary case coordination meetings, training activities, and systems improvement efforts.
- Assist with child safety planning and support informed judicial decision-making regarding custody and visitation matters.
- Collect and provide program data necessary for project evaluation and reporting.

City of Biloxi

- Authorize and support participation of Biloxi Municipal Court in project activities.
- Participate in the establishment and operation of the Biloxi High-Risk Team.
- Provide electronic monitoring (ankle monitor) services for qualifying high-risk domestic violence offenders as determined by the court.
- Coordinate with GCCFN, ASAP, law enforcement, and court personnel regarding offender monitoring and compliance.
- Participate in policy review, systems coordination, and offender accountability initiatives.
- Provide access to municipal court personnel for project planning, training, protocol development, and evaluation activities.
- Support collection of aggregate, non-confidential data necessary for project evaluation and reporting.

Participating Municipalities (D'Iberville, Long Beach, Pass Christian, Waveland, Diamondhead, Pascagoula, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, Gautier, and Other Participating Cities)

- Authorize and support participation of their respective Municipal Courts in project activities.
- Designate court representatives to participate in training, collaborative meetings, protocol development, and systems improvement initiatives.
- Support implementation of referral pathways between courts and victim service providers.
- Facilitate participation of municipal court personnel in High-Risk Teams and multidisciplinary coordination activities, when appropriate.
- Promote court-based victim advocacy, legal advocacy referrals, and offender accountability efforts.
- Assist with implementation of court procedures and practices that improve victim safety, access to justice, and offender accountability.
- Support collection of aggregate, non-confidential information necessary for project evaluation and performance reporting.
- Support supervised visitation services provided by this project

Court partners identified in Letters of Commitment will participate in coordinated case management, policy review, training, referral processes, supervised visitation coordination, and other project activities as described in the Proposal Narrative.

3. Underserved Populations

The Collaborative is committed to improving access to services for underserved victims, including survivors with limited English proficiency, culturally specific communities, and victims facing transportation, economic, geographic, or other barriers to services. BPSOS and GCCFN will provide culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach, advocacy, interpretation, and community engagement to increase access to services and justice system resources.

4. Budget Review and Equitable Compensation

Each partner has reviewed the FY 2026 Justice for Families Project budget, is aware of the total amount of funding requested, and understands the funding allocated for its respective activities. GCCFN, BPSOS, City of Biloxi, ASAP, and JGC agree that the compensation provided through the grant represents equitable compensation for services to be performed under the project. The Collaborative recognizes the value of each partner's expertise and contributions and affirms that funded partners are being compensated equitably in relation to the services, personnel, and resources contributed to the project.

5. Resources Contributed

GCCFN: Administrative oversight, project management, fiscal administration, office space, victim advocacy staff, offender management staff, legal advocacy coordination, training coordination, data collection, performance reporting, and access to established victim service programs and community partnerships.

The Junction Nonprofit: Supervised visitation and safe exchange facilities, trained visitation personnel, child-focused programming expertise, safety protocols, visitation monitoring services, and coordination with courts and child-serving agencies.

Alternative Sentencing and Probation (ASAP): Probation officers, offender supervision expertise, compliance monitoring services, offender accountability resources, participation in High-Risk Teams, and coordination with courts and intervention providers.

Boat People SOS (BPSOS): Culturally specific advocacy services, bilingual staff, interpretation and translation services, outreach capacity, community education resources, trusted relationships within immigrant communities, and expertise serving underserved populations.

City of Biloxi: Electronic monitoring resources for qualifying offenders, access to municipal court and law enforcement personnel, participation in High-Risk Teams, meeting and training space as available, policy review participation, and support for offender accountability initiatives.

Participating Municipalities (D'Iberville, Long Beach, Pass Christian, Waveland, Diamondhead, Pascagoula, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, Gautier, and other participating cities): Support for participation of Municipal Court personnel, access to court facilities and

staff, participation in project meetings and training activities, assistance with implementation of referral protocols, and support for coordinated responses to family violence.

6. Commitment

Each signatory affirms that it participated meaningfully in the development of this project, understands the roles and responsibilities of all partners, supports the activities described in the Proposal Narrative and Budget, and agrees to fulfill its obligations under this Memorandum of Understanding.

By: _____
Stacey Riley, Chief Executive Officer
Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence

Date

By: _____
Andrew Gilich, Mayor
City of Biloxi

Date

By: _____
Jane Nguyen, Gulf Coast Director
Boat People SOS

Date

By: _____
Keith Switzer, President
Alternative Sentencing and Arrest Programs, Inc.

Date

By: _____
Randi Page
The Junction Nonprofit

Date

By: _____
Jay Willis, Mayor
City of Pascagoula

Date

By: _____
Tim Pierce
Mayor, City of Long Beach

Date

By: _____
Casey Vaughn Mayor,
City of Gautier

Date