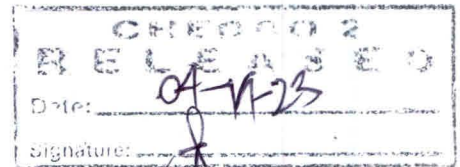




Republic of the Philippines  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
**COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**  
Region 02



**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM ORDER**  
**No. 086, series of 2023**

**FOR :** ALL PRESIDENTS/OFFICERS-IN-CHARGE/HEADS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) IN REGION 2

**SUBJECT :** CONSULTATION MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED UNIFIED INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR THE CONDUCT OF DRUG TESTING OF STUDENTS AMONG HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN REGION 2 ENTITLED "BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES LEADING TO AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE AGAINST DRUGS (BALAKAD)"

**DATE :** APRIL 19, 2023

In accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7722 otherwise known as the "Higher Education Act of 1994" and in compliance to the Executive Order (EO) No. 66, s. 2018 - Institutionalizing the Implementation of the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS), the Commission on Higher Education Regional Office 2 in partner with the PREACHER02 Organization will be conducting a **Consultation Meeting for the Proposed draft of the Unified Intervention Program for the Conduct of Drug Testing of Students Among Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Region 2 entitled "Beneficial Activities Leading to Awareness and Knowledge Against Drugs (BALAKAD)"** on April 28, 2023, 8:30 AM at CHED Regional Office 2, Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.


The objectives of the said consultation are as follows:

1. Present the draft of the "BALAKAD": A Unified Intervention Program for the Conduct of Drugs Testing Among HEIs in Region 2
2. Solicit information from the invited resource persons from DOH, PDEA, PNP, DILG, DSWD and HEI representatives for the improvement of the draft intervention program
3. Establish agreements, commitments and linkages with the invited agencies

Due to the limitation of the venue, HEIs in Region 2 are enjoined to send one (1) representative only who is a member of the Drug Free Committee (DFC) or Director/Deans/Coordinators of Student Affairs and Services. The officers of the PREACHER02 and the Regional Association of Practitioners of Student Affairs and Services (RAPSAS) shall automatically represent their respective institution.

Attached are the list of officers of the PREACHER-02 & RAPSAS, draft of the "BALAKAD" and program for reference.

For inquiries, you may contact **ENGR. JOVEN B. JACINTO**, Education Supervisor II, through mobile number at **0966-132-8558** or email at [jjacinto@ched.gov.ph](mailto:jjacinto@ched.gov.ph)

  
**ATTY. MARCO CICERO F. DOMINGO**  
OIC-Director IV

Encl.: as stated

Kindly rate the delivery of our services through the link below:

Link: <http://bit.ly/CHEDRO2CSS>

Your response shall help us improve our systems and procedures so we can better serve you.

Thank you.

:bjb04192023

## **OFFICERS OF THE PREACHER-02 AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS**

**President:** Mr. Samuel B. Damayon

**Secretary:** Mr. Sanyboy M. Beltran

**Auditor:** Dr. Herbert S. Corpuz represented by Mr. Nestor Cabrido

**Treasurer:** Dr. Jenalyn M. Sarmiento

**PIO:** Dr. Angelita Vargas

### **Coordinators**

Batanes – Ms. Trixie Elaine G. Ponce

Ms. Jenny Alina

Cagayan – Dr. Estrella Yu

Ms. Estela Dirain

Isabela – Mr. Jonathan Lord Aquino

Mr. Jenaro Al Valencia

Nueva Vizcaya – Dr. Angel L Genato

Ms. Bernadette Blanche

Quirino – Dr. Jennifer Serrano

## **OFFICERS OF THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRACTITIONERS OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SERVICES (RAPSAS)**

President – Mr. Marlon Jay Baysa

Vice President – Mr. Aristotle Gonzales

Secretary – Dr. Loraine S. Tattao

Treasurer – Dr. Jennifer O. Serrano

Auditor – Ms. Bernadette Blanche

PIO – Ms. Remedios Lamorena

Bus. Mngr. – Mr. Carlino Santos, Jr.

Coordinators:

Cagayan – Ms. Estela Dirain

Isabela – Ms. Apol Joy Cagayan

Quirino – Ms. Sherill Dumaga

Nuva Vizcaya – vacant

Batanes – vacant



**Consultation Meeting on the Proposed Unified Intervention Program for the Conduct of Drug Testing Among HEIs in Region 2 entitled “Beneficial Activities Leading to Awareness and Knowledge Against Drugs (BALAKAD)”**

**April 28, 2023 @ 9:00 AM**

**PROGRAMME**

<b>REGISTRATION (8:30 AM – 9:00 AM)</b>	
<b>I. PRELIMINARIES (9:00 AM)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invocation</li> </ul>	<b>MS. SHERILL G. DUMAGA</b> Coordinator for Quirino, RAPSAS Director, Office of Student Affairs and Services Quirino State University-Cabarroguis Campus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Anthem</li> </ul>	<b>AVP</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of Participants</li> </ul>	<b>MCs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Message</li> </ul>	<b>ATTY. MARCO CICERO F. DOMINGO</b> OIC-Director IV CHED Regional Office 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statement of Purpose</li> </ul>	<b>ENGR. JOVEN B. JACINTO</b> Education Supervisor II CHED Regional Office 2
<b>II. PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT PROPOSED UNIFIED INTERVENTION PROGRAM</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unified Intervention Program for the Conduct of Drug Testing Among HEIs in Region 2 entitled “Beneficial Activities Leading to Awareness and Knowledge Against Drugs (BALAKAD)”</li> </ul>	<b>MR. SAMUEL B. DAMAYON</b> President, PrEaCHER-02 Dean of Student Affairs and Services Saint Mary’s University
<b>III. DISCUSSION PROPER</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inputs/Comments from the representatives/resource person of the invited agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency Regional Office 2</b></li> <li><b>Philippine National Police Regional Office 2</b></li> <li><b>Department of Health Regional Office 2</b></li> <li><b>Department of Interior and Local Government Regional Office 2</b></li> <li><b>Department of Social Welfare and Development Regional Office 2</b></li> </ul>
<b>IV. OPEN FORUM</b>	
	<b>Moderators:</b> <b>MR. SANYBOY M. BELTRAN</b> Secretary, PREACHER-02 Director for Student Affairs and Services Isabela State University-Cabagan Campus  <b>DR. JENALYN M. SARMIENTO</b> Treasurer, PREACHER-02 University Director of Student Affairs and Services Quirino State University
<b>V. CLOSING</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of Commitments and Agreements</li> </ul>	<b>PREACHER-02 Organization</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing Remarks</li> </ul>	<b>DR. ALMACITA P. ABRIGO</b> Chief Education Programs Specialist CHED Regional Office 2
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	
<b>DR. JENNIFER O. SERRANO</b> Coordinator for Quirino, PREACHER-02 Guidance Counselor Quirino State University-Cabarroguis Campus	<b>MR. NESTOR CABRIDO</b> Prefect of Men University of Saint Louis



## **BALAKAD**

**(Beneficial Activities Leading to Awareness and Knowledge Against Drugs):**

### **A UNIFIED INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR THE CONDUCT OF DRUG TESTING AMONG HEIS IN REGION 2**

#### **A. RATIONALE**

The quality of life in general, health, academic and/or work performance are greatly affected by the individual's well-being due to the use and abuse of illegal or prohibited drugs.

Drug use remains high despite the blitz of the COVID-19 Pandemic. According to the United Nations Office of Drug and Crime (UNODC) 2022 World Drug Report, in 2020, an estimated 284 million people worldwide aged 15–64, majority of whom were men, had used a drug within the last 12 months. This corresponds to approximately 1 in every 18 people in that age group, or 5.6 per cent, and represents a 26 per cent increase on 2010, when the estimated number of people who used drugs was 226 million and prevalence was 5 per cent. In the Philippines, it is unfortunate that 41.25% of those belong to age 15 to 19 years old admitted in the facility-based treatment and rehabilitation facilities use drugs according to the Statistical Analysis of Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) for Calendar Year 2021. This statistical analysis of the DDB is in congruence with the 2022 World Drug Report of the UNODC that more young people continue to use drugs and have higher levels of use compared with previous generations.

In the Philippines, various drug prevention and intervention programs are implemented under the auspices of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) with its implementing arms such as the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Philippine National Police and other relevant government institutions toward curbing the drug problem. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is one of the said agencies which doing its job through massive information dissemination programs to increase awareness in the ill-effects of using drugs. CHED also institutionalized the drug testing of students in tertiary education through the issuance of the CHED Memorandum Order No. 18, series of 2018, "Implementing Guidelines for the Conduct of Drug Testing of Students in All Higher Education Institutions". The said CMO provides that Higher Education Institutions must have mechanisms to promote healthy lifestyle to their students, promote a "drug free" campus, drug education, strengthen collaboration and partnership and ensure that drug testing policies are reasonable and not violative of the fundamental rights of the students including their personal privacy and dignity. It also provides that the drug testing is in accordance with the DDB Regulation Number 6, series of 2003 and Number 3, series of 2009 which is for the drug prevention and rehabilitation purposes. However, the said CMO only provides that if a student found to be drug dependent, the appropriate sanction, intervention, and/or rehabilitation, shall be imposed in accordance with the school's Student Handbook and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Most HEIs in region 2 have already submitted their institutional policy on drug testing of students however, there are lacking in terms of the intervention program and/or rehabilitation program. Hence, the birth of the Beneficial Activities Leading to Awareness and Knowledge Against Drugs or BALAKAD: A Unified Intervention Program for the Conduct of Drug Testing Among HEIs in Region 2.

#### **B. OBJECTIVES**

This proposed program has the main objective of formulating a unified intervention program as a result of the conduct of random drug testing among HEIs in region 2. Specifically, it aims for the following:

- a. Ensure that all HEIs in Region 2 implement a common intervention mechanism to students found positive and confirmed to be drug dependent.
- b. Unite all HEIs, whether public or private, for the implementation of Drug Testing;



- c. Ensure that each HEI has its own respective approved Drug Testing Policy;
- d. Coordinate with government and/or non-government agencies on the conduct of Drug Testing in HEIs;
- e. Ensure that sharing of best practices on intervention programs of all HEIs takes place;
- f. Monitor proper implementation of Drug testing and its effective intervention programs.

### C. SCOPE

This proposed intervention program covers all students enrolled in HEIs in region 2 who are found positive as a result of drug testing and confirmed to be drug dependent who falls under the mild category based on the evaluation of the Department of Health (DOH).

### D. DEFINITION OF TERMS

Terms and Concepts relevant to Random Drug Testing are already contained in CMO No. 18 series of 2018. For the purposes of this intervention program, the following terms are defined as follows:

**After Care** – this is the process where the HEIS has to look into or follow-up on the student who has undergone the intervention program. The purpose of the after care is to assure that the student that went through the BALAKAD intervention program is completely now having a normal academic and social life within the HEI.

**Appropriate Intervention Programs or Activities** – these refer to the BALAKAD programs or activities that each HEIs would undertake after the administration of the needs assessment of a student found to be a mild user of illegal drugs through the implementation of random drug testing policy in the different HEIs of Region 2.

**BALAKAD** – is an intervention program crafted through the partnership of CHEDRO2 and the officers of the PREaCHERO2 who represents the different HEIs in Region 2. BALAKAD is the acronym for Beneficial Activities Leading to Awareness and Knowledge Against Drugs. Intervention programs herein mentioned in the documents would refer to BALAKAD.

**Evaluation** – is the process of holistically evaluating the implemented intervention program or activities of the BALAKAD. This process aims to look into how the program may be developed or improved.

**Intervention** – are therapeutic programs appropriate for students who are using dangerous drugs and are found to be in their mild stage and who are willing to take special assistance under the BALAKAD intervention program from the Higher Educational Institution of which he or she belong. The intervention program is a program crafted by the CHEDRO2 and HEIs of Region 2 through the PREaCHERO2 that may take the forms of crisis intervention, peer counseling, parent/student psychological counseling and other appropriate intervention activities deemed relevant and effective by each respective HEIs of Region 2.

**Monitoring** – is the process of checking not only the progress of the student under intervention but also to look into the efficiency or effectiveness of the intervention program or activity itself particularly in terms of logistics, facilities and implementation.

**Needs Assessment** – is the process of determining what possible intervention program or activities in the BALAKAD that maybe applicable for a student found to be positive of drug used at a mild level. This process of the intervention is done after an agreement is reached from both the parent and the student with the signing of an informed consent.

**PrEaCHERO2** – it is an organization of anti-illegal drug use advocates composed of representatives from different HEIs of Region 2 formed through the initiative of the anti-illegal drug focal person of the Commission of Higher Education of Region 2. PrEaCHERO2 stands for Preventive Education and Capacity Building in Higher Education Region 02.

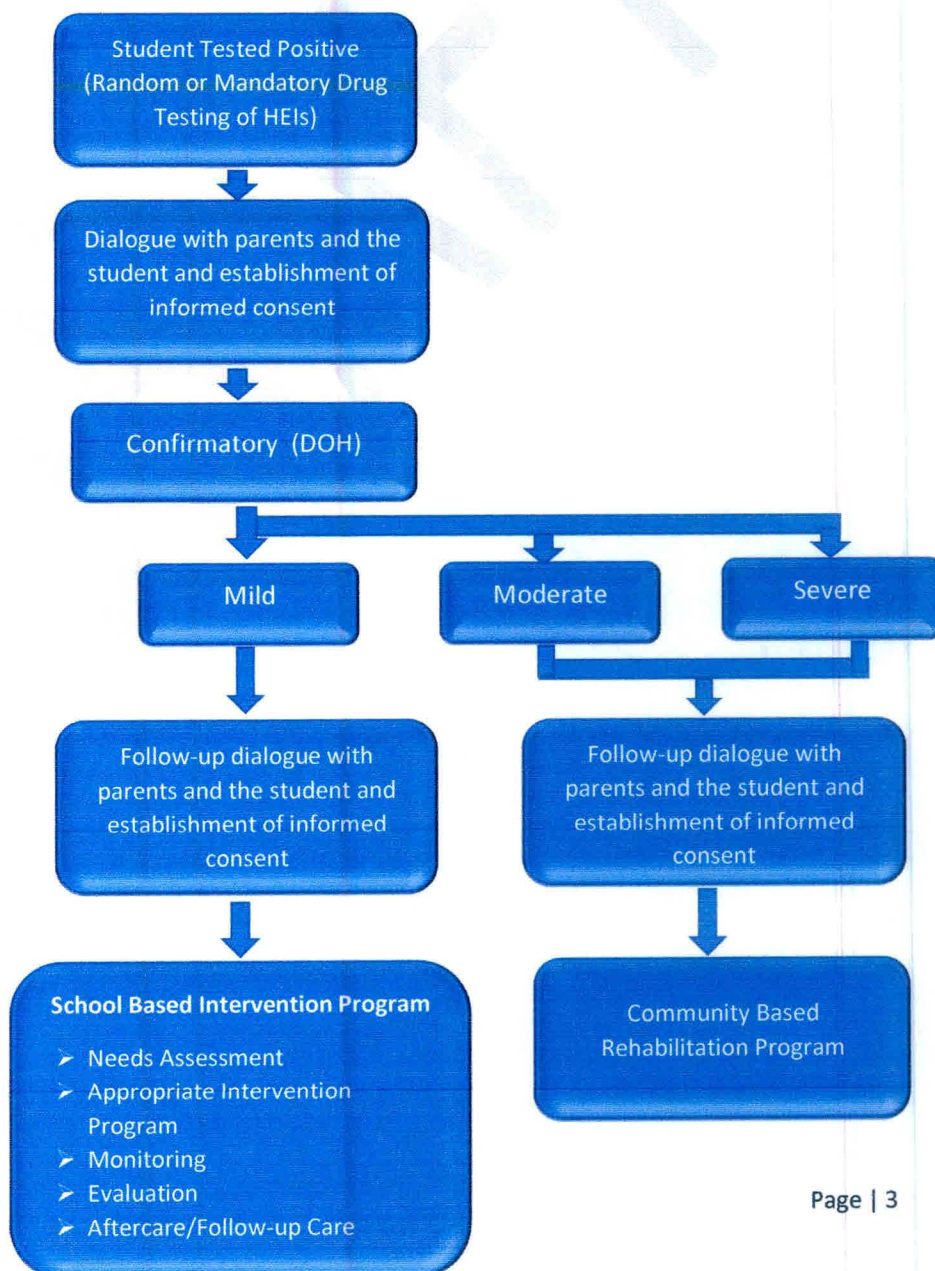


**STARS** – it stands for Student Trait Assessment for Responsible Self. This program provides psychological assessments along the areas of emotional quotient and Studying Attitudes of students. Students are personally monitored through timely intake interview, psychological assessment and counseling by a designated permanent counselor. A trait is a particular characteristic, quality, or tendency that someone or something has that can be assessed through one's emotional quotient and one's attitudes towards academic learning while in the university.

#### E. SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAM PROCESS FLOW

The BALAKAD school-based intervention program is adopted by each HEIs in Region 2 upon the implementation of its drug testing policy, when a student was found to be positive of illegal drug used. Once a student is tested positive, a student has to undergo a confirmatory test through the Department of Health. Once the level of dependency is determined, the HEI concerned make sure to have a dialogue with the parents or guardian and the student to get their consent on the next step which is an intervention depending on the level of dependency. If the level is mild, the student and the parent may opt for the school-based intervention program through the BALAKAD by signing an informed consent. If the level is moderate and/or severe, the HEI may refer the student with his/her and parents' consent to proper rehabilitation agencies or to the LGU's Community Based Rehabilitation Program or CBRP.

The school-based intervention program has the following process flow:





## F. SUGGESTED SCHOOL-BASED INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The PreaCHER-02 deems academic institutions as the efficient access of most efforts to develop and assess need-based approaches to adolescent drug abuse prevention. The proposed program targets salient risk and protective factors for adolescents diagnosed or identified as drug dependent guided by psychosocial theories for the employment of relevant and appropriate approaches in identifying and analysis on the attribution of the cause or reason for substance use and abuse. The data and knowledge gained from this work are deemed as the basis for developing practical or hands-on strategies.

The program comprises informative and therapeutic interventions arranged in a suitable sequence of the processes and activities designed according to the student drug dependents' needs and the intensity of these needs derived from the assessment conducted. Generally, the needs that are rated most important are the ones that get addressed. The activities will be designed to highlight the basic information or topics that the target population must know before the implementation of the need-based intervention to increase adolescents' awareness and knowledge against prohibited drugs and the social influences leading to drug abuse, educating them on specific skills for effectively battling the pressures of drug dependency, and providing them with therapeutic approaches to address their psychological, emotional, and psychosocial needs.

ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVES	TARGET DATE	OFFICE/PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Drug Prevention Education Program  1. Drug Symposium 2. Parent's Dialogue	An informative meeting with the student drug dependents and parents to present the implications of the use and misuse of drugs and steps to take when intervention is needed.	To educate the student drug dependents to prevent the use and misuse of drugs as well as include parents as collaborative partners, and to acquaint them with the proposed BALAKAD Intervention Program.	TBD	OSAS in collaboration with PNP and PDEA
Need Assessment - through the STARS (Student Trait Assessment for Responsible Self)	A method of inquiry into the needs of the students found as drug dependent. Accepted and universal psychological tools will be used for the need assessment of confirmed mild drug dependents.	To come up with data that will present the psychological, emotional, and psychosocial needs of the student drug dependents.	After conduct of Drug Testing from each HEIS in Region 2	Guidance Office
Competence Enhancement Training	Preliminary training focuses on the character strengths of the student drug dependents	To increase and enhance the student-drug dependents of their character strengths and capacities to reform and develop	TBD	Student Affairs and Services
Psychological First Aid Training	It consists of three major components that address critical domains found to promote substance use, to wit 1) Drug	To enable the student drug dependents to recognize misapprehensions about substance use; help students to	TBD	Guidance Office

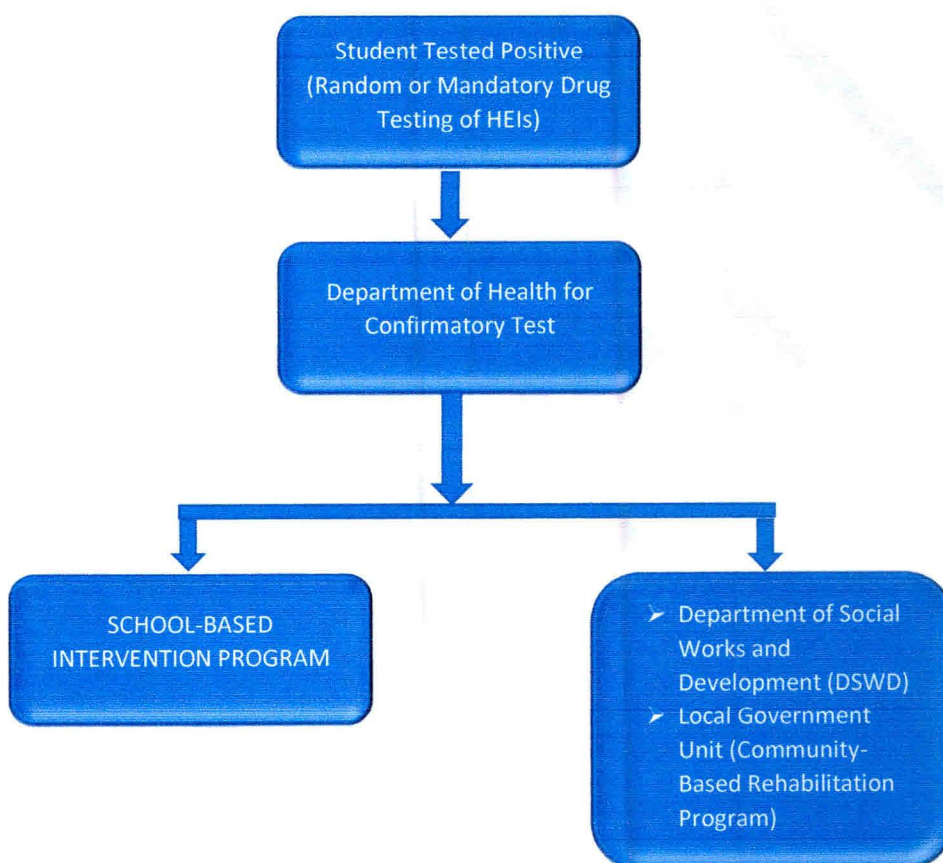


ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVES	TARGET DATE	OFFICE/PERSON RESPONSIBLE
	Resistance Skills 2) Personal Self-Management Skills, and 3) General Social Skills	examine their preferences and their effects on behavior; and recognize appropriate choices other than aggression or passivity when faced with tough situations.		
Implementation of Interventions designed based on the results of the assessment conducted <i>(This can only be designed after the assessment where the type of intervention s determined)</i>	a. Behavioral Intervention to address the psychological component of the student drug dependents' need.	To provide clinical care for the student drug dependents by guidance counselors, school psychologists, and other related health care staff to assist in addressing their psychological needs.	To be done after conduct of Drug Testing from each HEIS in Region 2 and the administration of the need assessment	Guidance Office
	b. Affective Intervention- a kind of intervention that will address the emotional needs of the student drug dependents. It focuses on emotion regulation, building self-esteem, and interpersonal growth.	To help the student drug dependents see how different emotions may be interrelated, and to allow them to take responsibility for their emotions and communicate them properly.	To be done after conduct of Drug Testing from each HEIS in Region 2 and the administration of the need assessment	
	c. Cognitive Intervention- An intervention that will address the psychosocial needs of the student drug dependents' upsetting thought patterns that are creating problems.	To assist the student drug dependents, deconstruct their harmful thought patterns, and break the negative connections that have formed in their minds regarding certain situations and issues that brought them to drug dependency.	To be done after conduct of Drug Testing from each HEIS in Region 2 and the administration of the need assessment	
Development Monitoring through counseling	The self-monitoring process and established counseling relationship with student drug dependents	To assist the student drug dependent, identify and set goals for achievement over the duration of the counseling relationship.	TBD or as scheduled by each respective HEIS	Guidance Counselor/Psychologist
Intervention Program	A means of measuring the effectiveness and	To look at the parameters, needs,	TBD or as scheduled by	OSAS

ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVES	TARGET DATE	OFFICE/PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Assessment and Evaluation	improvement of the need-based program.	components, and outcomes of the need-based program toward improving the BALAKAD Intervention Program.	each respective HEIs	

#### G. REFERRAL SYSTEM

The HEI once a student was tested positive must make steps to assure that the result is reliable through a confirmatory test with the Department of Health (DOH) for confirmation of the initial test and the determination of the level of drug dependency and to be able to know where to refer the student for possible intervention or rehabilitation. If the level of dependency is mild, then the student could be referred to the school-based intervention program but if the level of dependency is moderate and severe, the student may be referred for Community Based Rehabilitation Program.



#### H. Responsibilities/Role of HEIs, CHEDRO2 and other Stakeholders

Based on the objectives of this school-based intervention, the following are the responsibilities and roles of stakeholders:

**CHEDRO2 – Shall**

- 1) Ensure that all HEIs in Region 2 implement a common intervention mechanism to students found positive and confirmed to be drug dependent;
- 2) Unite all HEIs, whether public or private, for the implementation of Drug Testing;
- 3) Ensure that each HEI has its own respective approved Drug Testing Policy;



- 4) Coordinate with government and/or non-government agencies on the conduct of Drug Testing in HEIs;
- 5) Ensure that sharing of best practices on intervention programs of all HEIs takes place; and
- 6) Monitor proper implementation of Drug testing and its effective intervention programs.

**HEIs of Region 2 – Shall**

- 1) Ensure that it has its own respective approved Drug Testing Policy;
- 2) Coordinate and collaborate with CHEDRO2 and PrEaCHER02 for the implementation of Drug Testing;
- 3) Ensure that it implements the common intervention mechanism to students found positive and confirmed to be drug dependent through the BALAKAD;
- 4) Coordinate with government and/or non-government agencies on the conduct of its own Drug Testing; and
- 5) Monitor proper implementation of its own Drug testing and its effective intervention programs.

**PrEaCHER 02 – Shall**

- 1) serve as an arm of CHEDRO2 in the implementation of a common intervention mechanism to students found positive and confirmed to be drug dependent;
- 2) assist CHEDRO2 for the implementation of Drug Testing;
- 3) help each HEI especially those who do not have yet their own respective Drug Testing Policy;
- 4) assist CHEDRO2 and HEIs in coordinating with government and/or non-government agencies on the conduct of Drug Testing;
- 5) collaborate with CHEDRO2 to ensure that sharing of best practices on intervention programs of all HEIs in Region 2 takes place; and
- 6) monitor the proper implementation of Drug testing and its effective intervention programs among PrEaCHER02 groups.

**Other Stakeholders (DOH, PNP, PDEA, LGU, DSWD) - Shall**

- 1) collaborate with all HEIs in Region 2 in the implementation of the BALAKAD, a common intervention program, to students found positive and confirmed to be drug dependent;
- 2) assist all HEIs, whether public or private, for the implementation of Drug Testing especially on referrals; and
- 3) coordinate with CHEDRO2 or HEIs in their jurisdiction on the conduct of Drug Testing;