What is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)?
MOU is a written agreement that clarifies relationships and responsibilities between two or more organizations that share services, clients, and resources.

What is a Contract?
A contract is a "promise" or an "agreement" that is enforced or recognized by the law. In the civil law, contracts are considered to be part of the general law of obligations. A contract is a common synonym for a Memorandum of agreement (MOA).

Why is it important to have MOU?
MOU can strengthen the ability of two or more organizations to mutually solve problems. Participating parties benefit from the interchange of ideas and practices. Communities affected by MOUs reported that the partnerships have enhanced services and products provided by the respected parties involved in MOUs.

What is actually included in MOU?
MOUs cover a variety of issues and topics. Each partner agency needs to contribute to the process of crafting MOU. Effective MOUs can be as short as one page or quite lengthy.

MOUs should address:
1. Clarification of agency roles.
2. Referrals across agencies.
3. Assessment protocol.
4. Perimeters of responsibility.
5. Case management intervention.
6. Interagency obligations.
7. Agency liaison/coordination.
9. Periodic review of the MOU.

What is a Memorandum of Understanding?
A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is a legal document describing an agreement between parties. It is a more formal alternative to a gentlemen's agreement, but generally lacks the binding power of a contract.

In legal term, MOU is common synonym for a letter of intent (LOI).
What is a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)?

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is an official agreement between an institution with another university, government agency, etc. Full execution of MOA should be referred to a supplement that attached to the official MOA.

What are the potential problems that arise during the MOU process?

1. Misperceptions about each agency's goals, missions, and philosophy
2. Possible tension involves confidentiality and the various implications for each agency
3. Assessment on decisions and levels of intervention

What is a Supplement?

A supplement is a more specific document that exists under the official MOA. It can exist without a MOA. It becomes active on the date of signing of the MOA.