

February 24, 1999

Education

Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE BERTHA ABESS CHILDREN'S CENTER INC., TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO EMOTIONALLY HANDICAPPED AND SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED STUDENTS, FROM JULY 1, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOAL: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES

Authorization is requested to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bertha Abess Children's Center (BACC) Inc., to provide services to emotionally handicapped (EH) and severely emotionally disturbed (SED) students and their families. The combined resources of the school system and BACC have resulted in the delivery of comprehensive services to SED and EH students placed in psychoeducational day treatment programs at Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) sites. Additionally, BACC provides services to the SED program at Jackson Memorial Hospital/Highland Park.

M-DCPS provides facilities, teachers, materials, supplies and transportation. BACC provides input into the hiring of instructional personnel; however, the authority rests with the school site administrator to make final personnel decisions. Services provided to EH and SED students by BACC include expressive arts, individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, family counseling, parent education, home visits, in-home interventions, on-going staff training and referral services, as required by each student's Individual Educational Plan. In addition, psychiatric consultation services are provided for EH and SED students, as needed.

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to exercise his discretion to renew the cooperative agreement annually on a continuing basis.

The Director of Bertha Abess Children's Center Inc., is Carolyn Jenkins-Jaeger.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bertha Abess Children's Center, Inc., to provide services to emotionally handicapped and severely emotionally disturbed students, from July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000; and
2. renew this cooperative agreement annually on a continuing basis.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

RKF/gb