

Education  
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH INFORMED FAMILIES OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, INC., TO IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS WITHIN SELECTED MIDDLE SCHOOLS, FROM NOVEMBER 15, 1999 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS:**

- VI - EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**
- VII - SAFE SCHOOLS**
- IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP**

Authorization is requested to enter into a cooperative agreement with Informed Families of Dade County, Inc. to implement Community Action Teams (CAT) within selected middle schools which will be identified based upon the schools' responses to an application. Informed Families of Dade, Inc. will provide staff to help coordinate the Community Action Teams, fund the CAT Specialists, and provide an initial three-day training for the CAT Specialists to include: community mobilization skills, volunteer recruitment, strategic planning, team building, information about alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs, facilitator skills, and project implementation.

A Community Action Team is a neighborhood coalition with representatives from all segments of the community. The CAT is designed to help promote "safe, healthy and drug-free kids." Each CAT assesses the needs of its particular neighborhood and works to involve that community in drug awareness, prevention, and education efforts. Each CAT will be bound by the common goal to reduce substance abuse by youth in its community. This will be accomplished by: increasing parental involvement; increasing communication between and among parents, administrators, teachers, and students; creating a sense of community belonging for parents, administrators, teachers and students to facilitate raising safe, healthy, drug-free, well-educated children; and educating parents on the alcohol/drug problem, drug prevention, and other detrimental issues facing children today.

Under the terms of the agreement, a full time CAT Specialist, who is a leader within the neighborhood, will work in cooperation with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Student Services Team. The CAT Specialist will serve as the link between the public schools, the families and the neighborhood to recruit volunteers to implement the most effective prevention programs in his/her community.

The Chief Executive Officer of Informed Families of Dade County, Inc., is Ms. Peggy Sapp.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with Informed Families, Inc., to establish Community Action Teams in selected middle schools, from November 15, 1999 through June 30, 2000.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.