

Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent
Education

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ASSIGN THE CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH YOUTH SERVICES INTERNATIONAL SOUTHEASTERN PROGRAMS, INC., (EVERGLADES ACADEMY) AND WITH YOUTHTRACK, INC., TO RAMSAY YOUTH SERVICES, INC.

Authorization is sought to assign the contracts with Youth Services International Southeastern Programs, Inc., (Everglades Academy) and with Youthtrack, Inc., to Ramsay Youth Services, Inc. (RYS). Both Everglades Academy and Youthtrack are programs which operate under the auspices of the Educational Alternative Outreach Program. Each program serves youth at-risk in residential facilities. Students at these two programs are assigned by the Juvenile Courts.

At its meeting of November 20, 1996, the School Board authorized the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Youth Services International of Florida, Inc., (YSI) to provide educational services to school-aged students. At the Board meeting of November 19, 1997, approval was granted for a contractual agreement with Youth Services International Southeastern Programs, Inc., a subsidiary of YSI.

At its meeting of October 10, 1997, the Board authorized the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with Gator Human Services Corporation (GHS), to provide educational services to school-aged students. Subsequently GHS assigned all of its rights to Youthtrack, Inc. This assignment was approved by the Board at its October 20, 1999, meeting.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice has since awarded the contracts to operate the above-cited residential programs to RYS. RYS is a leading provider and manager of educational, treatment, and juvenile justice programs for at-risk youth. Its headquarters are located in Coral Gables, Florida.

Everglades Academy will serve 102 high-risk male adolescents, using a therapeutic community model and cognitive behavioral treatment strategies. Each student-resident will receive counseling, case management, health and substance abuse services, in addition to the educational component. RYS is scheduled to take over this contract on June 1, 2000. The director of Everglades Academy is Mr. Woody Hanford.

At Youthtrack, RYS will operate a moderate-risk educational program for 62 male adolescents. The program will focus on each student-resident's academic and vocational development. Additionally, it will provide environmental work-related and after-care services. RYS assumed this contract on April 3, 2000. The director of Youth Track is Mr. Kevin McLeod.

The Chairman of the Board of RYS is Mr. Paul J. Ramsay.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to assign the contractual agreements with Youth Services International Southeastern Programs, Inc., (Everglades Academy) and Youthtrack, Inc., to Ramsay Youth Services, Inc.

NJP:mjc