

Education

Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE ADOLESCENT CENTER OF CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF FLORIDA AND THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, DISTRICT 11, TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES IN A RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM, AND TO HAVE ACCESS TO TWO RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS FOR STUDENTS REFERRED BY MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FROM JULY 1, 2001 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2002

Authorization is requested to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Specialized Adolescent Center of Children's Home Society of Florida (SAC), formerly operating as Walden Community School Inc., and the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), District 11. SAC operates a residential treatment program designed to serve adolescents with emotional problems in a community-based residential facility. The program is located in Miami Springs, Florida, and is designed to serve adolescents, ages 13 through 18, who have been referred by the DCF Case Review Committee. This cooperative agreement has been in effect since 1991.

In exchange for the right to place up to two students in the residential treatment facility, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide educational services to up to 24 students placed at the facility by DCF. In addition, M-DCPS will provide all necessary instructional materials for the students. SAC will provide classroom space, furniture, and fixtures, as well as staff to provide instructional assistance in the classroom and clinical support services.

The students who are placed by M-DCPS will be determined by a district staffing committee to be in need of a residential program in order to meet their educational needs. Referrals from M-DCPS are subject to review and approval by the Regional Vice President of SAC and the DCF Case Review Committee.

The Executive Director of the Specialized Adolescent Center of Children's Home Society of Florida is Ms. Leana Castellanos. The District Administrator of the Florida Department of Children and Families, District 11, is Mr. Charles Auslander.

There is no exchange of funds.

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

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with the Specialized Adolescent Center of Children's Home Society of Florida and the Florida Department of Children and Families, District 11, to provide educational services to exceptional students in a residential treatment program, from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002; and
2. have access to two residential placements at the Specialized Adolescent Center of Children's Home Society of Florida for students referred by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

There is no exchange of funds.

RKF:jf