

Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO BECOME A MEMBER OF
 THE FLORIDA HEALTH CARE COALITION**

COMMITTEE: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Various meetings have been held with interested South Florida employers to consider expansion of the Central Florida Health Care Coalition. The Board of Directors of the Central Florida Health Care Coalition has approved the possible expansion into the South Florida area. As a result of that action, a meeting which was co-hosted by Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and Armando Olivera, President, Florida Power and Light, was held on January 15, 2003 to obtain commitments from interested employers.

The Central Florida Health Care Coalition was formed in 1984 and currently consists of a group of employers from the Central Florida area representing over 1,000,000 covered lives, working towards a common goal. The President/CEO, Ms. Becky Cherney, is nationally known for her advocacy and initiatives representing such employers in the coalition as Walt Disney Companies, Lockheed Martin, Universal Orlando, Publix Supermarkets, Orange County Public Schools, Suntrust, and Darden Restaurants. Under her leadership the coalition has become nationally recognized for the purpose of having employers join forces to reduce the rate of increases in the cost of health care services without compromising quality and to educate health care consumers. The 2004 goals and objectives for the coalition are as follows:

- ◆ Patient Safety
- ◆ Purchasing
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Community and Professional

As a current member, FP&L has agreed to provide office space for the expanded coalition to have a permanent office in the Miami area at their office at 9250 W. Flagler at no charge. Besides paying dues, the coalition believes that employer members must acknowledge a commitment to participate in coalition activities including demonstration projects, healthcare screenings, data reviews, meetings with provider organizations, etc. One of the largest initiatives which will occur in 2004 is the establishment of a pharmaceutical "carve out" whereby the members of The Florida Health Care Coalition will have the opportunity to have their employee's prescription drugs purchased directly from the largest pharmaceutical manufacturers at significantly discounted rates, and be eligible to receive manufacturer rebates, rather than the money going back to the insurance carriers or pharmaceutical benefit managers.

Following the meeting which was held on January 15, 2004, commitments for membership have been received from Miami-Dade County, Broward County Public Schools, Burdines, Palm Beach County Public Schools, and University of Miami. With annual School Board healthcare expenditures for 2004 exceeding \$200 million, staff believes that membership in this coalition is a significant investment in attempting to control costs, while providing quality healthcare to School Board employees, retirees, and their dependents. Annual dues for membership for 2004 are \$19,000 with funding to come from the Board's healthcare budget.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2003-2004 Adopted Budget under Fund 0100, Function 7730, Object 5230, Program 8140, and Location 9112.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida become a member of the Florida Health Care Coalition, effective February 12, 2004, or as soon thereafter as possible, with annual dues payable in the amount of \$19,000 payable to the Florida Health Care Coalition.

The appropriation for this item is included in the General Fund of the 2003-2004 Adopted Budget.

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