

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTER FOR FAMILY AND CHILD ENRICHMENT, INC., A NONPROFIT AGENCY IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO STUDENTS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE FLORIDA UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE MINOR PROGRAM, EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 15, 2005, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2006

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc., a nonprofit agency in Miami-Dade County, Florida, to provide educational and related services to students under the authority of the Florida Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program, effective December 15, 2005, through June 30, 2006. This is a new cooperative agreement; however, Miami-Dade County Public Schools has had a cooperative agreement with The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc., located at 11025 SW 84 Street, Miami, Florida, since 1999, serving middle and senior high school students adjudicated as children in need of services. This will be a new residential program called Open Arms International serving refugees referred for services and housed in a separate facility.

In compliance with Sections 1003.58 and 409.953 Florida Statutes, the Office of Special Education, Alternative Outreach, and Psychological Services has developed a cooperative agreement with this designated Florida Department of Children and Families agency. This nonprofit agency in Miami-Dade County, Florida, will provide educational and related services for 25 non-gender specific school-age children (12-17 years old), who are residing under the auspices of the federally funded Department of Health and Human Services. These students will be eligible for funding through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), in accordance with Section 1011.62 of the Florida Statutes. Services will be provided for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year.

This agreement involves commitments on the part of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc., of Miami-Dade County, as outlined in the cooperative agreement:

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- Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide an educational program that includes teachers, materials, and equipment, (no furniture), on the same basis as it provides for regular classes within M-DCPS. The principal of the Educational Alternative Outreach Program will provide the supervision of teachers.
- The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc., will provide classroom space in existing buildings that meets state specifications. Additionally, the agency will provide furniture, records of school-age students, and notification of students' discharge.

The Division of Alternative Outreach will provide educational and related services for students who reside and are under the auspices of The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc., which ensures that unaccompanied minor refugees and entrants receive the full range of assistance, care, and services to which all children in the State are entitled. The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc., shall have the legal authority, as designated, to act in place of the child's unavailable parent(s).

A copy of the cooperative agreement will be transmitted to School Board Members under separate cover and are available for inspection by the public in the Office of the Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

The Director of The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc., is Ms. Jill M. Volovar, LCSW.

There is no exchange of funds.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to enter into a cooperative agreement with The Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc., a nonprofit agency in Miami-Dade, County, Florida, to provide services to students under the authority of the Florida Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program, effective December 15, 2005, through June 30, 2006.

There is no exchange of funds.

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