

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BERTHA ABESS CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC. (BACC), TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED CLINICAL THERAPY AND PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION SERVICES IN SIX (6) BACC DAY-TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$600,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**LINK TO DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERAL OPERATIONS**

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into a contractual agreement with The Bertha Abess Children's Center, Inc. (BACC), to provide school-based day-treatment programs for elementary severely emotionally disturbed (SED) students in six (6) schools. These specialized clinical therapy and psychiatric services, as designated on students' individual educational plans (IEPs), will be provided for a maximum of 9,230 hours per year, at a rate of \$65 per hour, in an amount not to exceed \$600,000, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. This contractual agreement has been in effect since December 2006. Clinical therapy and psychiatric services will be delivered to students in programs at the following school sites:

- Golden Glades Elementary, Regional Center I, 16520 NW 28 Avenue, Miami, FL
- Scott Lake Elementary, Regional Center II, 1160 NW 175 Street, Miami, FL
- Miami Park Elementary, Regional Center III, 2225 NW 103 Street, Miami, FL
- Santa Clara Elementary, Regional Center IV, 1051 NW 29 Terrace, Miami, FL
- Palmetto Elementary, Regional Center V, 12401 SW 74 Avenue, Miami, FL
- I & B Peskoe Elementary, Regional Center VI, 20935 SW 144 Avenue, Homestead, FL

Since 1981, BACC has had a cooperative agreement to provide day-treatment programs for emotionally handicapped (EH) and SED students at no cost to the District. BACC currently has contractual agreements, awarded from Requests for Proposals, to provide specialized clinical therapy and psychiatric consultation to EH and SED students in 25 non-BACC school site programs. Services provided to EH and SED students by BACC include specialized clinical individual and group therapy, parent education and family therapy, behavior management programming, crisis intervention services, and psychiatric consultation services. This level of services is necessary to

ensure compliance with students' IEPs in the least restrictive environment (LRE). Students who have received BACC services have demonstrated positive academic and behavioral outcomes as measured by their FCAT developmental scale scores and low suspension rates. BACC is accredited with the Council of Accreditation and has been recognized by the American Association of Psychiatric Services for Children for their exemplary therapeutic programs.

The District will seek Medicaid reimbursement for the services provided. BACC will be required to complete the Miami-Dade County Public Schools' training and submit required paperwork to document their services in order to assist the District in complying with the requirements of the Florida Medicaid Certified School Match Program for Fee-For-Service and the Medicaid Administrative Claiming Program.

The Bertha Abess Children's Center, Inc., programs are evaluated by administrative and support staff from the Division of Special Education. The evaluation, including site visits and monitoring student records and program delivery models, found the programs to be effective in providing clinical therapy and psychiatric services to elementary SED students.

The Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, reviewed this Board item March 22, 2007, and recommended that an exception to the rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals (RFP) be granted as BACC has specific expertise. The specific expertise is based on the fact that BACC has a long history of providing these specialized clinical services. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was not initiated since BACC has demonstrated the successful operation of school-based day-treatment programs since 1981.

The CEO/Executive Director of The Bertha Abess Children's Center, Inc., is Mr. Ronald K. Felton.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget under Fund 0100, Function 5217, Program 6840, Object 5310, Location 9731.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with The Bertha Abess Children's Center, Inc.(BACC), to provide specialized clinical therapy and psychiatric consultation services in six (6) BACC day-treatment programs for severely emotionally disturbed (SED) elementary students, in an amount not to exceed \$600,000, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008; and
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, based on specific expertise.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2007-2008 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2007.

LCR/BB/II