

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, TO OPERATE NON-SCHOOL-BASED DAY-TREATMENT PROGRAMS FOR SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED AND/OR OTHER ELIGIBLE SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000, 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 Miami-Dade County, Florida, Department of Human Services (DHS), to operate non-school-based day-treatment programs for severely emotionally disturbed (SED) and/or other eligible special education students to provide a free and appropriate public education in a specialized psycho-educational setting offering a wide range of supportive and therapeutic services. This contractual agreement has been in effect since 2004; prior to this, a cooperative agreement had been in effect since 1982. Through this agreement, programs and related services are provided to elementary and secondary SED and/or other eligible special education students. The rate for all clinical delivery services will be \$65.00 an hour, for a maximum of 6,153 hours per year, not to exceed \$400,000. Clinical services will be delivered to students in programs at the following sites:

- Early Intervention Development Center (EIDC) located at 1400 NW 36 Street, Miami, Florida, serving a maximum of 30 students, ages 5 through 12;
- Family and Children's Development Center (FCDC) located at 11025 SW 84 Street, Miami, Florida, serving a maximum of 40 students, ages 5 through 12;
- Specialized Development Center-North (SDC-N) located at 1400 NW 36 Street, Miami, Florida, serving a maximum of 37 students, ages 5 through 22; and
- Specialized Development Center-South (SDC-S) located at 11025 SW 84 Street, Miami, Florida, serving a maximum of 45 students, ages 5 through 22.

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Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) provides instructional/administrative personnel, related services personnel, educational materials, equipment, supplies, field trip funding, and bus transportation.

Services provided to SED and/or other eligible special education students by DHS include individual and group therapy, parent education and family therapy, behavior management programming, crisis intervention services, and psychiatric consultation services. DHS also provides the facilities in which to operate the programs.

Total payments to EIDC, FCDC, SDC-N, and SDC-S, based on students' current Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and their current matrix funding levels, will not exceed \$400,000, effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. Individual clinical services can only be billed if Medicaid is not filed.

The District will seek Medicaid reimbursement for the services provided. DHS will be required to complete 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 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 be granted as DHS has specific expertise in providing these clinical services. The specific expertise is based on the fact that the programs are the only ones in the county that provide unique clinical interventions to SED and/or other eligible special education students. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was not initiated since other agencies could provide the educational services, but not the clinical therapy within therapeutic settings.

These 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 meeting the students' educational and therapeutic needs in a specialized psych-educational setting.

The County Manager of Miami-Dade County is Mr. George M. Burgess.

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, 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 Miami-Dade County, Florida, Department of Human Services, to operate non-school-based day-treatment programs for severely emotionally disturbed (SED) and/or other eligible special education students, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000, 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:ll