

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH FOUR COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) EARLY STEPS, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, MAILMAN CENTER AND MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO OPERATE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, BIRTH THROUGH AGE TWO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,091,606, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009, CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE 2008-2009 DISTRICT BUDGET

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE AND EXPAND CURRENT CURRICULUM

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into contractual agreements with four community agencies and the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps, University of Miami, Mailman Center and Miami Children's Hospital that have specific expertise providing extensive therapeutic and medical services to a unique population of children with disabilities which includes Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, severe mental retardation, severe behavior disorders, autism spectrum disorder, and visual and hearing impairments. The program delivery models, designed to meet the diverse needs of this population, include center-based services, home-based services, or a combination of the two.

Agencies will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the programs, facilities, staff assistance with the identification and placement of children, staff development training, and administrative support. In addition to providing the FTE, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide assistance with identification and placement of eligible children and monitoring to ensure compliance with applicable requirements. The agreement with each agency will be developed in partnership with M-DCPS and the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps.

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) funding for each agency varies, based on program delivery models and is outlined below:

- Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., (ARC) will serve a maximum of 122 children, in an amount not to exceed \$1,147,667;
- Easter Seals South Florida, Inc., (ESSF) will serve a maximum of 110 children, in an amount not to exceed \$848,898;

- University of Miami Debbie Institute will serve a maximum of 80 children, in an amount not to exceed \$629,008; and
- United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., (UCP) will serve a maximum of 56 children, in an amount not to exceed \$466,033.

Facility reviews, site visits, and monitoring children's records and program delivery models by District staff found the programs to be effective in providing early intervention services and to be in compliance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements. Each year, prior to renewal, an annual survey will be conducted with agencies providing these specialized services to determine who will best serve the District.

On May 22, 2008, in accordance with School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, Professional Services Contracts, each contract was thoroughly reviewed, and the Professional Services Contract Committee recommended that an exception to the School Board rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals (RFP) be granted as these agencies have specific expertise in this field.

Funding for these services will be generated by 80% of the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) generated from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) based on the level of services needed for each child listed in their Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP). The remaining 20% of the FTE will cover ancillary services/costs.

In addition to the M-DCPS funding, the Department of Health-CMS Early Steps will contribute Part C funding via rate agreements allocated to each agency, based upon the needs of children served. Part C funding may be used for a range of services including, but not limited to, nursing, therapy, home visits, social work service, family training, assistive technology, and staff assistance with the identification and placement of eligible children. There is no exchange of funds with the Department of Health-CMS Early Steps.

Contingent upon approval of the 2008-2009 District Budget, the appropriation for this item will be included under Fund 0100, Function 5217, Program 6840, Object 5310, Location 9731.

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

1. to enter into contractual agreements, subject to appropriation, with four community agencies and the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps, University of Miami Mailman Center and Miami Children's Hospital to operate programs for children with disabilities, birth through age two, in an amount not to exceed \$3,091,606, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, as follows:
 - Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1,147,667;
 - Easter Seals South Florida, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$848,898;
 - University of Miami Debbie Institute, in an amount not to exceed \$629,008; and
 - United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$466,033; and.

2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, as work which can only be performed by one who has achieved a high level of training and proficiency in the work to be performed.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2008-2009 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2008, contingent upon approval of the 2008-2009 District Budget.

LCR/WG:amr