

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, LINDA RAY INTERVENTION CENTER AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH-CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) EARLY STEPS, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MAILMAN CENTER AND MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR A MAXIMUM OF 60 COCAINE-EXPOSED CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, BIRTH THROUGH AGE TWO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$549,596, 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 a contractual agreement with the University of Miami, Linda Ray Intervention Center and the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps, University of Miami Mailman Center and Miami Children's Hospital to provide educational services for a maximum of 60 cocaine-exposed children with disabilities, birth through age two. Children eligible for placement as developmentally delayed are served in a center-based program.

The University of Miami, Linda Ray Intervention Center, provides the facility, instructional personnel, appropriate related services, materials, supplies, assessment of children, assistance in the placement of children, supervision of staff, administrative support, and security for the program. Additionally, it is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the program. The Early Steps programs provide initial assessments, case management and Part C funding. 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.

Funding for this contract 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.

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Facility reviews, site visits, and monitoring children's records and program delivery models by District staff found the program 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, this 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 this agency has specific expertise in this field.

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 to:

1. enter into a contractual agreement, subject to appropriation, with the University of Miami, Linda Ray Intervention Center, the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps, University of Miami Mailman Center and Miami Children's Hospital, to provide educational services for a maximum of 60 cocaine-exposed children with disabilities, birth through age two, in an amount not to exceed \$549,596, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009; and,
2. grant an exception to Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021.

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