

Ms. Raquel Regalado, Board Member

**SUBJECT: CONDUCT MEETING WITH THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, THE JUVENILE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC DEFENDER TO BROADEN THE PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT THE MENTAL HEALTH OF STUDENTS**

REVISED

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has worked toward safeguarding the mental health of students; but more efforts are needed. Specifically, the broadening of the partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) and its affiliates would enhance our current system of coordinated mental health care, thus improving focus on prevention, early intervention and treatment, and ensuring continuance of services after diagnosis.

REVISED

Communities need to be educated on mental health, aiming to bring hope to the children and families who believe their lives are permanently defined by a medical condition, which often can, with efficient intervention, be overcome or successfully managed.

There is a need to consider our legal ability to expand the right to assessment and intervention, and ensure there are no misuse of restraints and unnecessary use of the Baker Act.

DELETED

A functional partnership with DCF, the Juvenile Justice Department and the Public Defender would help Miami-Dade County Public Schools <sup>Revised</sup> achieve this and prevent and positively treat mental health illnesses in our students, thus reducing crime rates, human suffering and recidivism.

Broadening this partnership could also serve as a model for our districts that seek to have a better relationship with DCF.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**MS. RAQUEL REGALADO:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to conduct a meeting with the Florida Department of Children and Families, the Juvenile Justice Department and the Public Defender to broaden the current partnership to safeguard the mental health of students.

REVISED