

Ms. Lubby Navarro, Board Member

SUBJECT: THE LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) is nonprofit organization that aims to cure Leukemia, Lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and Myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS is at the forefront of the fight to cure cancer, and compared to other blood cancer nonprofits, LLS is the largest funder of cutting-edge research to advanced cures. Currently, LLS has invested in research and is a leader in advancing breakthroughs in immunotherapy, genomics, and personalized medicine.

The Southern Florida Chapter plays a large role in helping the local community by providing free information and resources to improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their families. For example, the Co-Pay Assistance Program helps patients pay their insurance premiums and meet co-pay obligations for treatment expenses and 100 survivors and family members benefitted from four Miami-Dade support groups with more than 800 unique visits.

Additionally, LLS has a Student Series Program, a science based service learning program. LLS Student Series Program gives students the unique experience of helping thousands of people in their fight against blood cancer, including those patients in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). LLS connects schools with local blood cancer patients, provides tangible life skills to participants and allows students to see the impact they are making in the lives of others.

Moreover, LLS has educated school nurses, social workers and pediatric health professionals on the long-term effects of childhood cancer treatment and how to better work with the children they are in contact with on such issues such as: identify PTSD/medical trauma effects, understanding the role of art therapy for pediatric cancer survivors, tools to employ when children are returning to school after treatment, and understanding the unique emotional impact of cancer on siblings and friends. 5,672 children have been diagnosed with a blood cancer in 2018 and Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) is the most common cancer in children.

To raise awareness, LLS will host a Light the Night walk to help celebrate, honor and remember those affected. This year, the walk has approximately 1 million people participating at 150 inspirational evening walks across the U.S. and Canada. The event raises awareness about the critical need for critical blood cancer research, offers support services and provides free information in order to improve the quality of life of cancer patients and their families. More than 5,000 people, including corporate and family teams, who have been touched by cancer, will gather to walk in an emotional and uplifting evening Saturday, November 3, 2018 at 6 p.m. at Bayfront Park in Downtown Miami.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
LUBBY NAVARRO:**

That The School Board of Miami Dade County, Florida, raise awareness within Miami-Dade County Public Schools about the services provided from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to children and families affected by cancer in Miami-Dade County.