

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH BETHESDA FAMILY SERVICES FOUNDATION FOR THE PROVISION OF A MENTORING PROGRAM FOR 60 AT-RISK STUDENTS PER YEAR, FOR UP TO THREE YEARS, JULY, 1999 THROUGH JUNE, 2002

**STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS: II - STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT/PREPARATION FOR POST SECONDARY EXPERIENCES
IX - COMMUNITY/HOME/PARENT/SCHOOL/
BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS**

Authorization is sought to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bethesda Family Services Foundation (BFS), a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, for the provision of a mentoring program which will accommodate 60 Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) students per year, aged 13-18. Targeted children will be referred by district and school-site administrators, based on the children's academic and behavioral profiles, from July 1999 through June 2002.

BFS, which is based in West Milton, Pennsylvania, has received a grant in the amount of \$200,000 from the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, to provide a juvenile mentoring program in Miami-Dade County, Florida, over a three-year period, from July 1999 through June 2002. In order to serve M-DCPS children, BFS will lease space locally, at a site to be determined, for the purpose of implementing its proposed program. BFS will provide services to the targeted youth and their families, utilizing the expertise of its trained mentors, each of whom is selected based on proven ability and commitment to at-risk youngsters.

The goals of the BFS mentoring program include the reduction of juvenile delinquency and gang violence, improvement in academic performance and the reduction of dropout rates. BFS aims to meet these goals through a comprehensive one-to-one mentoring program.

There is no exchange of funds for this cooperative agreement.

The founder and president of the BFS Foundation is Mr. Dominic P. Herbst.

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

1. enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bethesda Family Services Foundation, for the provision of a mentoring program for 60 at-risk students per year, from July 1999 through June 2000; and
2. renew this cooperative agreement annually for up to two years.

There is no exchange of funds for this agreement.