

Frank J. Cobo, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT TO DEVELOP AN INSTRUCTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR HIV/AIDS EDUCATION AT EACH SCHOOL SITE

There is a National crisis in the increase of HIV/AIDS cases. Based on concern for the alarming increase of cases afflicting our community, authorization is requested for the Superintendent of Schools, Miami-Dade County, to develop a plan to ensure the delivery of HIV/AIDS instruction at each school site. Recent statistics from National and State Health Agencies indicate that:

- Florida ranks third in the number of AIDS cases.
- Florida ranks second in the nation in the number of pediatric AIDS cases.
- In 2000, 12% of reported new HIV infections occurred in people between 15-24 years of age.
- 6,333 new HIV positive cases have been reported in Miami-Dade County since July, 1997.
- Fifty percent of all new HIV infections are acquired by age 25, and 25% of new HIV infections are acquired before age 22.
- Fifty-six percent of new HIV infections in Miami-Dade County are African-Americans and 30% are Hispanic.
- In Miami-Dade County, from 1981 through April 2001, 24,605 persons have been diagnosed with AIDS as confirmed by the State Health Office.
- Sixty-six percent of high school 12th graders in Florida reported having had sexual intercourse.
- Forty-eight percent of students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools have had sexual intercourse (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, YRBS, 1999).
- Twelve percent of students initiate sexual intercourse before age 13 (YRBS)

Since its inception in 1987, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools HIV/AIDS Education Program has:

- Been solely funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Cooperative Grant, providing approximately \$320,000 annually.
- Been directly responsible for educational training of students, staff, and parents.
- Trained at least two teachers at every school to serve as school site Resource Teachers.

- Coordinated and scheduled the HIV/AIDS Speakers' Bureau.
- Organized a Materials Review committee to determine appropriateness of instructional materials.
- Developed integration activities for infusing HIV into other subject areas.
- Provided information to schools, as requested, for HIV testing, treatment, and other support services.
- Developed a Peer Education Training Program at High Schools.

With an educational program in place, and to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS among our school age population, we are asking the Superintendent of Schools to direct staff to develop a plan to ensure that HIV/AIDS instruction is being delivered to students in grades Kindergarten through 12 on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to develop an instructional implementation plan for HIV/AIDS education at each school site.