

Mercedes Toural, Chief Education Officer  
and Deputy Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:           REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE, DOING BUSINESS AS (D/B/A) THE RESOURCE ROOM, TO OPEN A MANDATORY CENTER FOR OUTDOOR SUSPENSION AND A TRUANCY RECEIVING CENTER FOR STUDENTS FROM MIAMI CAROL CITY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND CAROL CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**COMMITTEE:       EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

The Children's Village, doing business as (d/b/a) The Resource Room, a non-profit organization, has received a grant from the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Eleventh Judicial Circuit, which will be utilized to fund a mandatory center for outdoor suspension and a truancy receiving center for students attending Miami Carol City Senior High School and Carol City Middle School during the 2003-2004 school year.

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent to enter into an interagency agreement with The Resource Room, and designate the site as a mandatory center for outdoor suspension and truancy receiving center. Students receiving suspensions will be assigned, for a maximum of ten days, to The Resource Room, located at 19715 N.W. 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Carol City, Florida. These students benefit from the small staff-to-student ratio and the skill-and character-building components offered. In addition, a sworn police officer from Miami-Dade County Police Department will work with the students at the center.

Students who violate Groups I-V of the Board-approved Code of Student Conduct and receive outdoor suspensions for a maximum of ten days will be mandated to attend The Resource Room. Additionally, students from these schools who are detained in truancy sweeps by local law enforcement will be taken to The Resource Room and will receive either an indoor or outdoor suspension for a maximum of ten days.

Students mandated to attend The Resource Room will be provided with transportation by Miami-Dade County Public Schools, utilizing existing bus routes. The students will be picked up at a designated bus stop located at each school. The Resource Room will provide students with activities related to anger management, conflict resolution, cognitive thinking skills, self-discipline, peer pressure avoidance, and character building. Other components of the program including voluntary parental workshops and family bonding activities will be held after school hours.

Since the center for outdoor suspension will be housed at a non-public school building, the district has requested necessary copies of documentation as follows: the Certificate of Occupancy (CO), the Insurance Certificate (IC), and the Fire Permit. The Resource Room submitted a CO, IC, and a fire inspection certificate. However, the CO needs a revision; the IC must show Miami-Dade County Public Schools as the certificate holder, as per the Department of Risk and Benefits Management; and the fire inspection needs to be corrected. Presently, there is a delay in obtaining clearance on the CO, since the original certificate was issued by Miami-Dade County, and the city is now transitioning into the new City of Miami Gardens.

Therefore, it is recommended that the Board proceed with the authorization to enter into an interagency agreement, with the condition that all the requirements are met by The Resource Room prior to signing the agreement.

The President of The Resource Room is Ms. Ebony Johnson-Jackson.

No local funds are required.

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

1. enter in an interagency agreement with The Children's Village, d/b/a The Resource Room, upon completion of all pending requirements, effective September 15, 2003 through June 9, 2004; and
2. open a mandatory center for outdoor suspension at The Resource Room to accommodate students from Miami Carol City Senior High School and Carol City Middle School who have received outdoor suspensions or have been detained by local law enforcement for truancy.

No local funds are required.

GMK/CR/MEZ:jc