

Frank J. Bolaños, Member

SUBJECT: SEVERELY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED (SED) PROGRAM CLOSINGS

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL SERVICES

In 1982, Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools initiated a co-venture agreement to fund five day-treatment programs for Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) children. Since the inception of the agreement, Miami-Dade County has provided the facilities, administrative and clinical components, and MDCPS has provided teachers and transportation. For the last 24 years, these centers have served as a national model for serving children with schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, and pervasive developmental disorders.

On August 29, 2003 Miami-Dade County initiated discussions for additional MDCPS investment and/or the elimination of some centers due to fiscal constraints. The county has sought additional financial resources from MDCPS for building maintenance, services to non-medicaid students and expenses related to the leasing of facilities.

Although staff has met repeatedly with county representatives, and has offered to pay for a greater share of personnel costs, the negotiations have not been successful and plans are now being made to close three of the five centers and relocate over 100 students now enrolled at these centers:

1. **Family and Children's Development Center (FCDC)**
11025 SW 84th Street. This program services SED children from ages 5 through 12 and has been in existence since 1973.
2. **Family and Adolescent Development Center (FADC) - located at**
2965 NW 17th Street. This program services SED children and young adults from ages 13 through 22 and has been in existence since 1980.
3. **Early Intervention Development Center (EIDC) - located at**
1400 NW 36th Street. This program services SED children from ages 5 through 12 and has been in existence since 1991.

It is of utmost priority that these centers continue providing the services to the students currently enrolled. The dedicated level of services they receive at the SED centers, such as clinical therapy, group therapy and family outreach, would be disrupted if moved to other schools at this time.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MR. FRANK J. BOLAÑOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County:

1. Direct the Superintendent and appropriate staff to continue negotiations with Miami-Dade County for the continuation of all joint SED centers and to expend additional resources, if necessary, to ensure continued service delivery to currently enrolled students.
2. Authorize the Chair to address the County Commission Chair in writing expressing the School Board's concerns and desire to reach a viable solution.