

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF THE EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION FOR "RESEARCH ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN", SUBMITTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVED SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT BY IMPLEMENTING PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Background

Throughout the years, the Pediatric Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine (UM) has partnered with the District to develop and participate in pedestrian safety programs. These successful programs include the annual WalkSafe and Walk Your Child to School Day events.

The WalkSafe educational curriculum is currently offered at all Miami-Dade County public elementary schools, and has lead to a significant decrease in the number of children being hit by cars. Since the commencement of WalkSafe in 2001, multiple agencies have partnered to address WalkSafe's 5-E model (education, engineering, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation). WalkSafe is recognized as a national evidence-based child safety program and has been adopted throughout several states.

Safety Proposal

Although there has been a decrease in the number of children hit by cars, there are still those that will inevitably fall victim to such an accident. These unfortunate situations create an opportunity to identify the gaps in the WalkSafe program. In this regard, UM is preparing a grant proposal to address the 5-E injury prevention model in the hospital immediately following the incident. Once the child is admitted to a Level One Trauma Center in Miami-Dade County (Miami Children's Hospital and Ryder Trauma Center), UM will perform a series of steps. These include conducting interviews with the child and his/her family, reviewing police reports, conducting visits of the incident sites, providing an educational component, and collecting various sources of data as part of the study. The information obtained will help determine the strengths and weaknesses of the 5-Es, which is the cornerstone of WalkSafe.

It is recommended that the Board endorse the grant application by UM for development and implementation of the safety intervention program, which will benefit injured children admitted to a Level One Trauma Center in Miami-Dade County (Miami Children's Hospital and Ryder Trauma Center).

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorse the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development Grant application for improving the WalkSafe program, submitted by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.