

Milagros R. Fornell, Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum and Instruction

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH BERTHA ABESS CHILDREN'S CENTER, INC., (BACC) TO PROVIDE SPECIALIZED CLINICAL THERAPY AND PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION SERVICES IN TWO BACC DAY-TREATMENT PROGRAMS AT MIAMI PARK AND PALMETTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH EMOTIONAL/BEHAVIORAL DISABILITIES WITH INTERNAL FACTORS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2010**

**COMMITTEE:               INSTRUCTIONAL   EXCELLENCE    AND   COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANS:   GENERAL OPERATIONS**

Authorization is requested to allow the Superintendent of Schools to enter into a contractual agreement with the Bertha Abess Children's Center, Inc. (BACC), in an amount not to exceed \$200,000, to provide school-based day-treatment programs at Miami Park and Palmetto Elementary Schools for students with E/BD with internal factors. In compliance with student IEPs, BACC will provide individual and group clinical therapy, parent education and family therapy, behavior management programming, crisis intervention services and psychiatric consultation services for students with E/BD within the least restrictive environment (LRE). Specialized clinical therapy and psychiatric services, as designated on student IEPs, will be offered to students, effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. This BACC program is funded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). No General Funds are required.

BACC has been recognized by the American Association of Psychiatric Services for Children for its exemplary therapeutic programs. Students that have participated in BACC programs have demonstrated positive academic and behavioral achievements as measured by FCAT developmental scale scores and low suspension rates. BACC programs administered in M-DCPS schools are regularly evaluated by the Division of Special Education through site visits and routine monitoring of student records and program delivery models to insure compliance with requirements set forth in the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The proposed contract has been reviewed by the Professional Services Contract Committee established by School Board Rule 6Gx13-3F-1.021, during its meeting held on April 30, 2009. The committee has recommended that an exception to the School Board Rule regarding bids or Request for Proposals (RFP) be granted in light of BACC's specific expertise in providing specialized psychoeducational day-treatment services.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2009-2010 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2009, under Fund 0420, Function 5200, Program 4501, object 5310, Location 9615.

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

1. enter into a contractual agreement with Bertha Abess Children's Center, Inc., (BACC) to provide specialized clinical therapy and psychiatric consultation services in two BACC day-treatment programs at Miami Park and Palmetto Elementary Schools for students with emotional/behavioral disabilities with internal factors, in an amount not to exceed \$200,000; effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010;
2. grant an exception to School Board Rule 6Gx13- 3F-1.021, based on BACC's specific expertise in offering specialized psychoeducational day-treatment services; and
3. extend this contractual agreement annually for a maximum of two additional one-year periods, contingent upon availability of funds.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the Other Federal Programs Fund (Contracted Programs Fund) of the 2009-2010 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2009.

MRF/jf