

Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Vice Chair

SUBJECT: COMMUNITIES PUTTING PREVENTION TO WORK GRANT

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: STUDENT, PARENT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At its November 17, 2009 meeting, the School Board endorsed its participation in a grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention entitled *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*. Under the proposed grant, the Miami-Dade Health Department served as the lead agency, partnering with various advocacy groups, including the school district, to develop a comprehensive community action plan to help combat poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and obesity trends affecting children and adults in Miami-Dade County.

On March 19, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services hosted a national kick off to announce the grant awards to communities across the country, totaling \$372.8 million. Miami-Dade community partners, including the Miami-Dade school district were recognized among the many applicants and will be awarded \$14.7 million, over a two-year period to implement its action plan.

As a result of these grants funds, the school district will benefit through implementation of the following grant components:

- The School District will increase physical education activities:
 - At the high school level, an extra period of physical education for 9th grade students will be provided, with a potential to expand the offerings to additional grade levels.
 - At the elementary level, the SPARK Program would be expanded to 200 elementary schools. SPARK is a research-based program aimed at increasing the quantity and quality of daily physical activity, as well as improving nutrition in our schools. Currently, the program is being implemented at 40 elementary schools via funding from another grant.

**Good Cause
H-17**

- The School District will increase participation in school meal programs that provide more fruits and vegetables.
- Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Miami-Dade County Public Works, will update the Miami-Dade County Urban Design Manual to incorporate Green Street principals, which include coordinating public spaces in the planning and development of safe parks-to-schools paths.
- City of Miami will enhance bicycle facilities by installing bicycle racks and improving signage at schools located in areas of high pedestrian and bicycle injuries.
- The WalkSafe Program, in partnership with the School District, will help increase sustainability of Safe Routes to School initiatives, by developing a county-wide policy to require all elementary and middle schools to document students' mode of transportation. The information will provide insight as to which areas should be prioritized for Safe Routes to Schools infrastructure and non-infrastructure grant program.
- The City of Miami will be encouraged to increase the number of crossing guards at high-risk schools within the City.

This item does not appear in the published Agenda. There is good cause to vary from the Agenda in order to timely recognize the participating entities now that the Centers for Disease Control have announced the award of the grant to our school district, which will be accepted at the next School Board meeting.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY VICE CHAIR
PERLA TABARES HANTMAN:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognize the efforts of its community health partners, who collaborated with the School District to develop a comprehensive grant entitled Putting Prevention to Work, which was recently awarded. The grant will improve the well-being of our students and our community as a whole.