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Office of Academics and Transformation

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS WITH THREE COMMUNITY AGENCIES TO OPERATE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, BIRTH THROUGH AGE TWO, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,670,459, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2014, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015, CONTINGENT UPON APPROVAL OF THE 2014-2015 DISTRICT BUDGET

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: EDUCATION

Authorization is requested for the Superintendent of Schools to enter into contractual agreements with three community agencies to provide extensive therapeutic and medical services to a unique population of children with disabilities which includes Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, and visual and hearing impairments. Through a collaboration with the Department of Health-Children's Medical Services (CMS) Early Steps and the B-2 agencies, the program is designed to meet the diverse needs of this population by providing center-based services, home-based services, or a combination of the two.

Each agency will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the programs, facilities, staff assistance with the identification and placement of children, staff development training, and administrative support. In support of these services, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) will provide assistance with the identification and placement of eligible children and monitoring to ensure compliance with applicable laws and rules. The agreement with each agency will be developed in partnership with M-DCPS and the CMS Early Steps.

During the 2013-2014 school year, facility reviews, site visits, and monitoring children's records and program delivery models by District staff found the programs to be effective in providing early intervention services and to be in compliance with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements.

The Professional Services Contract Committee, established by School Board Policy 6320, reviewed these contracts on June 26, 2014, and recommended that an exception to the School Board Policy regarding bids or Request for Proposals be granted, as these agencies have specific expertise in providing educational services for birth through age two children with disabilities.

Funding for each agency is based on program delivery models as outlined below:

Agency	# of Students	Funding Amount
Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc.	A maximum of 149 children	in an amount not to exceed \$1,458,215
Easter Seals South Florida, Inc.	A maximum of 90 children	in an amount not to exceed \$949,175
United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc.	A maximum of 26 children	in an amount not to exceed \$263,069

Funding for these services will come from 80% of the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) generated from the Florida Education Finance Program based on the level of services needed for each child listed in the Individualized Family Support Plan. The remaining 20% of the FTE will cover ancillary services/costs.

In addition to the funding from M-DCPS, the CMS Early Steps will contribute IDEA Part C funding via rate agreements with each agency, based upon the needs of children served. Part C funding may be used for a range of services including, but not limited to, targeted case management, nursing, therapy, home visits, social work services, family training, assistive technology, and staff assistance with the identification and placement of eligible children. There is no exchange of funds with the CMS Early Steps.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget under Fund 100000, Funds Center 1901300, Commitment Item 531000, and Functional Area 68400000-521700, to be recommended for adoption in July 2014, contingent upon approval of the 2014-2015 District Budget.

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

1. enter into contractual agreements with three community agencies to operate programs for children with disabilities, birth through age two, in an amount not to exceed \$2,670,459, effective August 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, contingent upon approval of the 2014-2015 District Budget, as follows:
 - Association for Retarded Citizens of South Florida, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1,458,215;
 - Easter Seals South Florida, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$949,175;
 - United Cerebral Palsy Association of Miami, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$263,069; and
2. grant an exception to School Board Policy 6320, based on specific expertise.

The appropriation for this item will be included in the General Fund of the 2014-2015 Tentative Budget to be recommended for adoption in July 2014, contingent upon approval of the 2014-2015 District Budget.

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