

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES AND STUDENT AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

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

Social workers will celebrate National Social Work Month in March 2015. This year's official theme is "Social Work Paves the Way for Change." Celebrated annually, National Professional Social Work Month is an opportunity for social workers across the country to turn the spotlight on the profession and highlight the important contributions they make to society.

The mission of the *School Social Work Program* is to promote school social work best practices that enhance the delivery and quality of social work services to all students and/or their families. School social workers render services according to Federal, State and school policies and procedures, administered through Special Education (SPED) Centers, school sites, District-based programs, Region Centers, Health Connect in Our Schools (HCiOS), Alternative Education, and other specialized programs.

The *School Social Work Program* participates in ongoing collaboration with SPED, District, Region Centers, and school administration through its *School Social Work Program* chairpersons to derive policy, monitor procedures and measure the provision and quality of social work service delivery. Program information is shared with school social worker staff via regularly scheduled meetings and ongoing communication. Professional development workshops are also provided to all school social worker staff on a continual basis with an emphasis on mental health and social service topics.

The objective is to improve attendance/reduce truancy, increase graduation rates, reduce drop-out rates, increase school safety, improve student participation in the classroom, increase parental involvement, improve student academic performance, address students' social/emotional needs, and promote student wellness.

The vision is to promote best practice standards, encourage a systemic, holistic approach to the delivery of prevention/intervention services, link students and families to needed community resources, foster collaborative relationships between parents and schools, advocate for students' rights, and promote appreciation of cultural diversity.

Miami Dade County School Social workers make a difference in the day to day lives of thousands of students helping to build, support and empower positive family and community relationships.

School social workers more than any other profession recognize that more must be done to address persistent social problems such as poverty, scarcity of resources, and lack of access to services, and will continue to work with school administration, teachers, parents and community stakeholders to accomplish positive change for our students.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to explore the implementation of a promotional campaign that raise awareness in our community about social work and personalize the contribution that M-DCPS social workers bring to our students and families.