

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

SUBJECT: CONDUCT REVIEW OF INFORMATION TO BE DISSEMINATED AS IT RELATES TO ENROLLMENT EVENTS AND LOCATIONS, AS WELL AS HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN OPTIONS UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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

In 2013, the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey indicated that over 750,000 Miami-Dade County residents were uninsured and of those residents approximately 65,000 were under 18 years of age. As a result of the tremendous work by various governmental and community organizations, 257,088 Miami-Dade residents received healthcare coverage by the end of the first open enrollment period in March of 2014. At the time, those statistics indicated that approximately 490,000 Miami-Dade residents were still uninsured. In an effort to determine what was holding residents back from applying for healthcare, Get Covered America conducted a survey.

The January 2014 survey, which was conducted on uninsured residents revealed that the perception of high costs was the biggest obstacle to enrollment. Moreover, the survey uncovered that just as many people were unaware of the opportunities for financial help through the Health Insurance Marketplace. This information indicated that our community needed to be properly informed of their options under the Affordable Healthcare Act. As such, the Miami-Dade County Public School Board took action that led to the dissemination of information regarding obtaining insurance under the Affordable Healthcare Act. The work of M-DCPS, along with many others, encouraged approximately 222,000 new Miami-Dade County residents to obtain healthcare coverage. As a result, the percentage of uninsured Miami-Dade residence was reduced by 9%. Nevertheless, there is still work to be done to keep parents out of hospitals and in their homes.

The U.S. Census Bureau's 2014 Annual Estimates of the Miami-Dade County resident population indicates that approximately 2.67 million people reside in the County. Despite a 9% reduction in uninsured Miami-Dade County residents, approximately 19% or 507,300 residents were still uninsured as of 2014. Utilizing the 2014 new enrollment data from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (222,000 new enrollees), as well as the 2014 uninsured population estimates (507,300 uninsured residence), it has been determined that approximately 285,300 Miami-Dade County residents are still uninsured.

Healthy parents help produce healthy children; both of which are essential building blocks for a health community. For some in this community, the access to in-person help is crucial to obtain healthcare; especially in urban communities. Specifically, the likelihood that a person enrolled doubled if they got help from a navigator (individuals that help people

enroll in coverage that fits their needs and budget). This effect was even more pronounced in communities of color, which preferred in-person assistance over a website or hotline.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County Florida, authorize the:

- (1) School Board Attorney's Office to review for legal sufficiency e-flyers, commit cards, handouts, pamphlets, as well as other information (see documentation attached), to determine whether same can be distributed throughout the various M-DCPS communication systems/platforms, including but not limited to, the parent portal, within schools site locations, M-DCPS website(s), etc.
- (2) School Board Attorney's Office to determine the legal sufficiency of allowing navigators (individuals that help people enroll in coverage that fits their needs and budget) in designated locations on and/or within M-DCPS properties, including but not limited to, school sites, the School Board Administration Building, etc. for the purposes of disseminating information and signing individuals up for healthcare coverage under the Affordable Healthcare Act.
- (3) School Board Attorney's Office to determine the legal sufficiency as to whether a policy to annually disseminate information to parents, students, and the community regarding healthcare coverage under the Affordable Healthcare Act can be created based on current school board policy.
- (4) The Superintendent to create a detailed plan to disseminate all information approved by the School Board Attorney's Office as a result of this Agenda Item for each voter member district during the open

enrollment period. For coverage starting in 2016, the Open Enrollment Period is November 1, 2015–January 31, 2016. The dissemination plan should include the use of the various M-DCPS communication systems/platforms, including but not limited to, the parent portal, designated locations on and/or within M-DCPS, M-DCPS website(s), etc.