

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

**SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MAY 2016 AS NATIONAL MELANOMA SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS**

Designated by the American Academy of Dermatology, National Melanoma Skin Cancer Prevention Month aims to raise awareness about skin cancer, increasing the chances of early detection so treatments can be given early and to promote the prevention and early detection of melanoma and other skin cancers.

There is no reliable cure for melanoma. In most cases, all the surgeon can do is cut cancerous tissue from the body by removing malignant moles, the skin surrounding the malignant mole and removing nearby lymph nodes if the cancer has spread. Melanoma does not respond well to chemotherapy and the effects of drug treatments are quite limited. Once melanoma has spread to other parts of the body life expectancy can rapidly diminish so it's vital early surgical treatment is given.

Most people do not realize that the skin is the largest and most visible organ of the body and performs many essential tasks. Substantially more than 1 million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year. One in five Americans will develop skin cancer during their lifetime and this year, it is estimated that there will be 121,840 new cases of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, diagnosed in the United States. One person dies almost every hour from melanoma. Melanoma and other skin cancers are highly treatable if detected early. Sun exposure is the most preventable risk factor for all skin cancers, including melanoma;

Insurance claims specifically coded for skin cancer paid during 2015 in Miami-Dade County Public Schools may exceed \$1.3 million. That number may be higher since physicians do not always specifically code claims.

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

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorses May 2016 as National Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and authorizes the Superintendent to:

1. Provide students and employees with information and safety tips regarding screening and long-term behaviors which may help prevent skin cancer; and,
- 2.
3. Encourage the use of protective wear for students, and for employees especially those who work in the outdoors.
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