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Dr. Marta Pérez Wurtz, Board Member
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} Added

SUBJECT: EXPLORE PARTNERSHIPS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO INCREASE THE FUNDING OF HEAD START AND EARLY START PROGRAMS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

The Head Start and Early Head Start programs are administered by the Office of Head Start, within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Office of Head Start (OHS) administers grant funding and oversight to the 1,700 public and private nonprofit and for-profit agencies that provide Head Start services. OHS also provides federal policy direction and a training and technical assistance (T/TA) system to assist grantees in providing comprehensive services to eligible young children and their families.

The Head Start / Early Head Start Program provides comprehensive child development services for low income children and families in Miami-Dade County. The program is open to children ages new born through age 5, and provides care and instruction for children in a classroom setting.

Currently, Miami-Dade County Public Schools oversees over 30 Head Start and Early Programs in collaboration with Miami-Dade County and about 17 delegate agencies help run the program throughout the county. Miami-Dade County Public Schools is served best when children are given the socialization and critical thinking tools needed to succeed well before entering the school system. When Head Start and Early Start programs are adequately funded and supported by all invested stakeholders, research has shown an increase in child development and academic performance.

ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to explore partnerships and review available resources that will increase the funding and improve the quality of head start programs and facilities.