

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUTH SAFETY INITIATIVE –
TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN**

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

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

Background/Overview

Based on guidance provided by the Board related to the District's appropriate role within the broader community, - most closely affirmed with the passage of the item proffered by Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Chair, on June 9, 2016, wherein agenda item H-7 endorsed the exploration of entering into an interlocal agreement with Miami-Dade County (County), the City of Miami, The Children's Trust (Trust), and other municipalities in an effort to stem the tide of gun violence with Miami-Dade County, the following item brings forth action steps that focus on data-driven referrals, family engagement, coordination of services and neighborhood partnerships.

Together for Children Coalition - Aligning with the Board's commitment to protect our children, the District, County, Trust and various other institutions helped initially establish the Together for Children Coalition (TFC), an innovative collaboration with the mission to leverage experience, ideas and resources to create data-driven neighborhood action plans that are intended to prevent youth violence. A critical element of this work is the use of data to guide investment of resources and services to those neighborhoods and youth that demonstrate greatest need. With a focus on twenty zip codes which have historically demonstrated the highest number of youth arrests, steps have been taken to break silos, collaboratively establishing an innovative and evidence-based referral and family engagement system which coordinates a continuum of supports for school-aged youth and their families that will focus on addressing the root causes of attendance, behavioral and/or academic challenges. This systemic coordination will be an important part of each TFC neighborhood-specific action plan.

**REVISED
A-3**

Neighborhood Action Plans - Since September 2016, the Coalition facilitated over 60 events and gathered input from over 2,000 stakeholders, including youth, parents, residents, community-based organizations, faith-based institutions and business leaders in the north, central and south regions of Miami-Dade. Input and suggestions from community members and organizations have been incorporated into Neighborhood Action Plan Frameworks with a focus on six strategic areas to strengthen protective factors for our community's children, including enhancing policy, strengthening families, mobilizing neighbors, empowering youth, protecting youth, and providing second chances for adjudicated youth. Beginning April 2017, this work will be used to guide the development of action plans comprised of goals, strategies, outcomes, resource assessment and allocation, fund development strategies, staffing and timelines with the continued understanding that phased implementation will enable immediate action while also allowing for consistent evaluation and refinements.

Phased Implementation

Phase One (April 2016 – September 2016) To be most effective as partners, the coalition of anchor institutions defined vital data tools and agreed upon a referral and family engagement system for school-aged youth including those reentering into an educational environment. Building upon the successful Summer Youth Internship Program collaboration model, the District, the Foundation for New Education Initiatives (FNEI), Trust, and County identified \$2,239,759.42 of in-kind resources that could be leveraged with an annual \$967,898.00 cash investment to support the referral “backbone” of the TFC initiative, which would identify and support youth and families demonstrating greatest need. The data-driven referral and service coordination process defined would be implemented by both M-DCPS and the Miami-Dade Juvenile Services Department (JSD). The referral and coordination process elements led by M-DCPS would be headed by School Operations.

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Added

Phase Two (September 2016 – February 2017) focused on the engagement of stakeholders at a neighborhood level. This work informed the development of Neighborhood Action Frameworks that were shared out in January of 2017. Community engagement work also informed the development of several Trust Request for Proposals bringing forward more than \$14 million of direct services including mentoring, tutoring, summer and out-of-school programming for older youth, early childhood care, family therapy, mental health support and trauma response services in the identified zip codes beginning in May of 2017. Anchor institutions will work closely with those funded agencies to ensure that referrals for direct services are cohesively done through the family engagement system that, if approved, will be in place beginning in April of 2017. Although Trust funding is not the singular funding stream for TFC at the neighborhood or anchor institution levels, it has been the first step in coordinating resources around the priorities defined in partnership with the community and will be in place in time for the summer months.

Added

Phase Three (March 2017 – September 2017) Funded and engaged partners, anchor institutions, community leaders and stakeholders are essential in solidifying the necessary infrastructure to implement the aforementioned evidence-based referral and family engagement system. A Cooperative Agreement among partners including the Trust, the County, the District and FNEI will be finalized to maximize systemic coordination/implementation:

- Thirty-three elementary and K-8 schools with the highest chronic absenteeism rates in the twenty zip codes will participate in the iAttend Truancy Prevention Program. The program will have one full-time coordinator and thirteen full time TFC family advocates (attendance interventionists) that will make home visits, coordinate cross sector family support meetings, and develop attendance action plans for each student facing five or more unexcused absences. Based upon the current data, and issues and concerns shared by the student and his/her family, students and their families will be afforded an opportunity to participate in this deeper, holistic support system. } Revised
- Students between the ages of 11 and 16, living in the twenty identified zip codes and facing attendance, behavior and academic challenges will have a chance to participate in a service-based assessment and referral-based program facilitated by the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department (JSD). Employing data drawn from the District's Early Warning Indicator System, M-DCPS, JSD and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), as needed, will work closely together to support and develop a Service Plan to address the individualized needs of the child and/or his/her family. Interventions may include, but will not be limited to: evidenced-based family therapy models, individual/group counseling, tutoring, mentoring, employment and appropriate out-of-school programming.
- M-DCPS's One Stop Educational and Community Service Center (One Stop Centers) partners with JSD, DJJ, the Department of Children and Families and numerous community-based organizations to provide transitional support for at-risk, high-promise youth with a focus on strengthened educational placement and decreased recidivism rates. Two wrap-around service specialists will work with DJJ in implementing the Electronic Educational Exit Plan (EEEP) for students referred by DJJ's Commitment Program. Through the One Stop Transition Database, the wrap-around service specialist will monitor follow-up and case management, working directly with school counselors. With the leveraging of TFC resources, One Stop Centers will expand to two additional locations, for a total of three, in geographically accessible areas. The following locations have been identified as potential sites for the One Stop Centers: } Revised
 - Jan Mann Opportunity Center Campus, 16101 NW 44th Ct. Miami Gardens, FL 33054;
 - 500 Role Model Campus 6300 NW 27th Ave. Miami, FL 33147;
 - Miami MacArthur South Campus 13990 SW 264th St. Naranja, FL 33032

Beginning in April 2017 and through the summer of 2017, Neighborhood Action Plans will be finalized. All plans will demonstrate a direct and strong linkage to the TFC evidence-based referral and family engagement system. M-DCPS and other anchor institutions will be vested partners in each of the Together for Children Neighborhood Coalitions. The Together for Children Initiative inclusive of partner engagement, community input and action plans has been led and will continue to be led by the Chief Strategy Officer.

Added

On March 21st, 2017 the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the Together for Children Program. A copy of the Resolution and Agreements approved can be found at the following link:

<http://attachmentManagerFiles.dadeschools.net/getFile.ashx?id=PRqhRh1TpqQzcGvU46NkvcxKb~!ZgnGrY6QBLJIU8LSqfFVvAFZ1v~lg==&app=AttachmentManager>

Phase Four (2017-2018 School Year) will be focused on the implementation and monitoring of the TFC Neighborhood Action Plans.

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

1. Collaborate with intergovernmental agencies, community organizations, and other stakeholders including parents and students to finalize and implement Together for Children Neighborhood Action Plans;
2. Execute Cooperative Agreement to include the Foundation for New Education Initiatives and Miami-Dade County to implement the evidence-based referral and family engagement system, as well as amendments, extensions, and renewals of such agreements and documents to implement the program; and exercise termination, waiver, and other provisions set forth therein; and
3. Provide an annual report on the progress of the Together for Children Initiative.

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