

Ms. Monica Colucci, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Mr. Daniel Espino, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco
Dr. Steve Gallon III
Ms. Luisa Santos

SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH DATA

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN: SAFE, HEALTHY, & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Miami-Dade County Public School's (M-DCPS) top priority is the health and well-being of its students. The School Board has allocated extensive resources in support of student mental health to address this vital concern. Since what cannot be evaluated and measured cannot be improved, it is incumbent on the District to provide a quantitative and qualitative analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of mental health services provided to M-DCPS students, being vigilant that the reporting of data is non-identifiable, to protect the confidentiality of the students.

The following Board items were proffered, associated with student mental health:

- January 15, 2020, Board Item H-13 Revised Good Cause, (Student-Athlete Mental Health Awareness Initiatives, Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member
- April 29, 2020, Board Item H-10 Revised-2 Good Cause, (Mental Health Services During Distance Learning), Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member
- May 20, 2020, Board Item H-11 Revised Good Cause, (Request For Approval of Resolution No. 20-019 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, Supporting U.S. House of Representatives Bill 4194, and U.S. Senate Bill 2661: National Suicide Hotline Designation Act), Ms. Susie V. Castillo, Board Member
- April 21, 2021, Board Item H-12 Revised-2, Social and Emotional Health Seminars for Senior High School Students – Grades 9-12), Ms. Christi Fraga, Board Member
- May 19, 2021, Board Item H-16 Revised, (Return to In-Person Student Learning for 2021-2022 School Year – A New Vision for the Academic, Social, and Emotional Needs of Students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools), Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
- June 23, 2021, Board Item H-8 Revised, (Mental Health Services), Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member
- August 18, 2021, Board Item H-20 Revised, MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (M-DCPS), Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member
- October 20, 2021, Board Item H-15 Revised-2 Good Cause, (Mental Health and Effects of Academic Performance Among Migrants Students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools), Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

- June 22, 2022, H-10 Revised, Districtwide Safety and Security Committee Review and Evaluation of Miami-Dade County Public Schools Safety and Security Protocols, Procedures, and Mental Health Services; and Establishment of a Sub-Committee Within the District Safety And Security Committee to Monitor the Development and Actions of the Marjory Stoneman High School Public Safety) Commission, Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Board Member

At the School Board Meeting of June 22, 2022, the School Board approved Agenda Item H-10, proffered by School Board Chair Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas. Recommendation (3) of the item stated, “include all available and public data for mental health services, regarding student assessment, program implementation, qualifications of mental health staff and providers, and any recommended enhanced actions to be considered.”

On February 2, 2023, staff follow-up from the Superintendent to Board Item H-10, was transmitted to the Board in the form of a slide presentation. A portion of the presentation addressed a response to Recommend Action (3). The response was organized under the heading Mental Health Services as follows:

(1) School and Community-Based Mental Health Professionals/Support Services: This slide listed Mental Health Coordinators (MHCs), School Counselors, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, Trust Counselors, Student Services Support Specialists, Community Providers, and stated that all positions require a master’s degree/experience in the applicable field. Additionally, the slide stated that licensing is preferred/registered intern for MHCs and Agencies.

(2) Student Assessment and Suicide Risk Assessments: This slide described school and community-based mental health professionals aligning instruments to assess referred students who may be experiencing a mental health challenge. Assessments listed were Suicide Risk Assessments as selected by The Florida Department of Education which included a) Suicide Assessment Five-Step Evaluation and Triage (SAFET), b) Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS); additionally, the slide also included a Universal Screening Pilot Program – nine schools (grades 3, 6 and 9); and

(3) Mental Health Services Program Implementation: This slide separated Mental Health into the MTSS Framework divided into Tier 1 (Universal/Prevention), Tier 2 (Supplement/At-Risk), and Tier 3 (Individualized/Intensive). In Tier 1 (data-based problem-solving leadership teams) and Tier 3 (data and strategy sharing between school and agency staff), there is reference made to data, but none is provided in the slide presentation.

Schools are well positioned to facilitate early identification and intervention for youth with emerging mental health needs, and in collaboration with community agencies and resources, may provide a synchronized approach to effectively deliver the necessary and coordinated services to the students of M-DCPS. Early identification and monitored follow up of services and progress of mental health concerns can improve long-term student development and success. Gathering and evaluating quantitative and qualitative measurements validate the effectiveness of mental health services rendered to M-DCPS students, which is a prerequisite for its continuous improvement.

The purpose of this item is to request that the Superintendent review and evaluate the measurable quantitative and qualitative effectiveness of mental health services provided through the M-DCPS mental health services program to students, and that said review include, but not be limited to (1) that the appropriateness of services provided are tailored to the specific type and severity of the disorder, (2) ease of accessibility for students and their parents/guardians to services provided, (3) clear understanding of the services available by the students and their parents/guardians, (4) level of expertise of mental health care providers employed/contracted by M-DCPS, (5) efficacy of

mental health professionals, (6) therapeutic continuity in student mental health services and follow up, (7) alignment among mental health services offered by District personnel, contracted personnel, and outside agencies, to avoid duplication of services and maintain clear lines of communication between all providers that are servicing a student, and (8) the outcomes of the student mental health services provided. A summary of the outcome data gathered should be analyzed. Evaluate the outcomes of student mental health services and their impact on improving such matters to include, but not limited to; trauma associated with physical and emotional abuse, depression, anxiety, hostility, aggression, social anxiety, academic outcomes, student discipline, and student attendance. This item also requests that the evaluation of the data and outcomes of student mental health services provided to date will be presented at the May 10, 2023, Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee meeting.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the General Counsel's Office as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. MONICA COLUCCI:**

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

1. review and evaluate the measurable quantitative and qualitative effectiveness of mental health services provided through the M-DCPS mental health services program to students, and that said review include, but not be limited to (1) that the appropriateness of services provided are tailored to the specific type and severity of the disorder, (2) ease of accessibility for students and their parents/guardians to services provided, (3) clear understanding of the services available from the students and their parents/guardians, (4) level of expertise of mental health care providers employed/contracted by M-DCPS, (5) efficacy of mental health professionals, (6) therapeutic continuity in student mental health services and follow up, (7) alignment among mental health services offered by District personnel, contracted personnel, and outside agencies, to avoid duplication of services and maintain clear lines of communication between all providers that are servicing a student, and (8) the outcomes of the student mental health services provided;. and
2. Evaluate the outcomes of student mental health services and their impact on improving such matters to include, but not limited to; trauma associated with physical and emotional abuse, depression, anxiety, hostility, aggression, social anxiety, academic outcomes, student discipline, and student attendance. The evaluation of the data and outcomes of student mental health services provided to date will be presented at the May 10, 2023, Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee meeting.