

Ms. Monica Colucci, Board Member

**SUBJECT: COLLABORATION BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
(M-DCPS) AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS**

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LINK TO STRATEGIC

PLAN: INFORMED, ENGAGED, AND EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

At the School Board Meeting of October 11, 2023, the Board approved Item E-14, (Request Approval of Supplemental Award On Request for Proposals No. RFP-18-003-CH – Mental Health Services). The item specified that due to an increase in student referrals to support student’s mental health needs, this supplement is required to provide comprehensive community based mental health services to support the District’s Mental Health Assistance Plan. The request for this RFP includes mental health services in the following six areas: 1) Mental health screenings and assessments, 2) Individual and group counseling, 3) Family counseling, 4) Substance abuse intervention, 5) Parent/teacher consultation, and 6) Case management. The request was for The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and the successful bidder, be extended for two (2) additional one (1) year extension periods.

When education, mental health, and mental health providers collaborate closely, the community moves toward the development of a full continuum of prevention-early intervention treatment for children and adolescents in the most natural setting, the schools. For collaboration to be effective and for real change to occur, individuals from all disciplines must work together. There are barriers to true interdisciplinary collaboration, including work schedules, the staggering amount of need, and the difficulties of merging activities when every person has preexisting commitments and limited time. Establishing clearly defined roles and expectations; mutual understanding of the unique challenges of working with and in schools, including challenges related to legal and ethical issues, can certainly be minimized when mental health and education professionals work together to plan, solve problems, and share knowledge with the goal of developing a system of care for students and their families.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent, to explore the feasibility of developing a comprehensive plan in which designated staff, as determined by the Superintendent, and in accordance with any applicable contracts and the relevant RFP, meet collectively, in person, if feasible, on a quarterly basis until the plan is fully developed, and bi-annually once the plan is in place, with a representative(s) of the respective mental health service providers as determined by the Superintendent, for the purpose of establishing and/or refining the communication and collaboration with M-DCPS and its Mental Health Service providers.

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. Explore the feasibility of developing a comprehensive plan in which designated staff, as determined by the Superintendent, and in accordance with any applicable contracts and the relevant RFP, collectively, in person, if feasible, on a quarterly basis until the plan is fully developed, and bi-annually once the plan is in place, with a representative(s) of the respective mental health service providers as determined by the Superintendent, for the purpose of establishing and/or refining the communication and collaboration with M-DCPS and its Mental Health Service providers; and
2. Present the results at the Personnel, Student, School, & Community Support Committee meeting of Wednesday, January 10, 2024.