

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for Exceptional Student Education
Mental and Emotional Health Subcommittee

Subcommittee Report

December 8, 2020

Present: Juan Carlos Gonzalez (Co-chair), Diane Adreon (Co-chair), Liani Cuba (MDCPS-Director of Community Mental Health Services), Christine Reigadas (former Co-chair, parent), Ernie Martinez (parent), Arlene Lindsay-Marshall (MDCPS-Crisis Team Member), Maria Ratti (parent), Daniel Ore (MDCPS-ESE)

Location: Virtual
<https://zoom.us/j/94046249466>
Meeting ID: 940 4624 9466

Time: 10:00 – 11:45 am

- I. Juan Carlos Gonzalez opened the meeting and welcomed members. Diane Adreon also provided some opening remarks.
- II. Juan Carlos Gonzalez led the review of the 2019-2020 Smart Goals and facilitated a discussion about the development of the 2020-2021 Smart Goals.
- III. Liani Cuba shared information on mental health services available in the MDCPS, including some information on new initiatives (sent via Briefing) and on the implementation and monitoring. On a number of goals, the district has partnered with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).
- IV. Daniel Ore reported that since the Pandemic, there have been large numbers of dis-engaged students who have not attended school for 11 or more days. They have been doing wellness check-in via mail, phone, text, and home visits. Depending on needs, they have been finding resources to help families with food, clothing, and other needs. Juan indicated that the Department of Family Support Services in MDCPS has also been working to address these issues.
- V. The committee decided that Smart Goals #1 and #2 for the 2019-2020 year have been met. The committee decided to continue:

Smart Goal #3 – Improving Communication

- Statement: Interested in increasing the communication and ties among community mental health providers, MDCPS schools and families.

- Rationale: Providing descriptions and contact information of the agencies and MDCPS offices involved mental health related services would benefit all parties.
- To Accomplish: Provide a resource that informs all stakeholders of the community agencies and MDCPS offices involved in ensuring appropriate mental health services.

- VI. More specifically, it was suggested that
- a. Electronic information regarding what the district is doing to address mental health issues be created and disseminated and an infographic on how parents can access mental health services be created and disseminated.
 - b. The committee invite school police (contact Corina Putt) to share how they are addressing threat assessments, suicide prevention, and information.
 - c. Launch a presentation on grief and loss (that has been presented by Dr. Schoenfeld) in collaboration with The Parent Academy. Provide information to parents regarding this available video and including signs that a child may be struggling with grief, things parents can do, and available resources.
 - d. Invite SRO office (liaison Corina Putt), SED-NET (liaison Marie Castor), Thriving Minds (liaison Maria G.), and representatives from Nicklaus Children's Hospital and/or Citrus Mental Health to expand community representation on this committee.
- VII. The next virtual meeting: **February 12, 2020** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm