

**Superintendent's District Advisory Panel for
Exceptional Student Education**

Mental Health Sub-Committee Meeting

Agenda

Thursday, November 7, 2024

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Google Meet joining info

<https://meet.google.com/rcg-rrxu-jxt>

Attendees:

Lianie Cuba, Executive Director Department of Mental Health Services

Jennifer Urbay, Director Advocacy Network on Disabilities

Ivan Deveaux, Manager UM Card

Ivette Dominguez, Officer All Kids Included

Crystal Miller, District Clinical Chairperson

Nisermy Ferro, Thriving Mind

Vanessa Seron, Instructional Support Specialist for ASD Programs

Giselle Mendieta, Director Exceptional Student Education

Tiombe Kendrick-Dunn, Instructional Supervisor Exceptional Student Education

Alina Rodriguez, Executive Director Exceptional Student Education

Maria Ratti, Parent

Welcome and Introductions

There was a review of 2024-2025 goals that were submitted prior to the meeting. Goals are below. The goals in red will remain as the committee's goals for this school year.

1 - Brainstorm more ways to include advocacy and inclusion of disabilities in mental health education.

-Better educate students/parents/staff, including flyers brochures to shift the stigma with mental health. (Jennifer D.)

-Professional Development Days? Stipends? Advocacy?

2 - Utilization of a platform to facilitate the referral process and communication between MDCPS and Thriving Mind for mental health and substance use treatment services. (Maria)

-Including SENDET/Thriving Mind Referrals

3 - Streamline the process of referrals for Mental Health services through the district, referral for SEDNET, and finding a way to do this hopefully prior to any severe crisis taking place that could result in trauma for the students. (Ivan)

-Referral processing: through mental health coordinators, meetings with parents, to get services through contracted agencies.

-Thriving Minds: Doesn't provide direct services. Assist parents to refer.

-Thriving Mind Process: Works with Miami Dade and Monroe County. Citrus. Assist with resources until you are off the waiting list.

-SEDNET follows up from Baker Acts.

4 - Identify the issues / challenges that hinder the successful implementation of mental health services. (Ratti)

-Concerns: waiting list, turnaround time, disconnect with parents not knowing where the referral goes.

-Finding supports for Homelessness, substance abuse support among girls.

-Concerns about School Counselor may not be fully aware of the Thriving Mind.

-Improve the follow up process with parents and family engagement.

-Implementing/Providing more information on ABA to teachers.

-Consider more recreation for students in schools.

-All Kids Included?

Identified goals for the 2024-2025 school year are:

- **Brainstorm more ways to include advocacy and inclusion of disabilities in mental health education.**
- **Identify the issues / challenges that hinder the successful implementation of mental health services.**

Future Meeting Dates:

December 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

February 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

April 8, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn