

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
First Amendment to Agreement
13-027-1V Student Psychiatric Services

A recent Surgeon General's report noted that many young people with emotional and behavioral needs are not accurately assessed and treated. Recent data published by the Center for Disease Control shows an increased prevalence of developmental conditions in children today. About one-quarter of children in the U.S. have a diagnosable psychiatric disorder, such as autism, depression, or bipolar disorder; however, only about 20 percent receive evaluation and treatment by medical professionals and only a fraction are evaluated by one of the country's 8,300 child and adolescent psychiatrists. Child and adolescent psychiatrists have the opportunity to treat children in the context of their families, schools, and communities.

Psychiatric services are provided to students at Whispering Pines Center and Cross Creek School to serve students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) and as part of a therapeutic program identified on their Individual Educational Plan. Students identified as needing extensive therapeutic support will receive services to include, but is not limited to, individual and group therapy, family therapy, specialized groups, crisis management and intervention, on-going situational support, and medication management. The services of a licensed child psychiatrist can be provided at the EBD centers rather than more costly residential and private school placements.

The District's center/schools' model of service is unique in utilizing the expertise of a trained medical doctor to identify and treat students with severe psychiatric, emotional, and behavioral problems. This model offers the on-site consultation by a team of clinicians composed of mental health therapists and nurses, led by an experienced medical doctor.

In 2012, the District bid this service through RFP 13-027N, which included the tri-county areas, and received four proposals. Proposals were received from Deirdre Foster, MD; Gaetano DeFilippo, MD; Nyrma N. Ortiz, PA; and Smith Mental Health Associates, LLC. Drs. DeFilippo and Ortiz did not meet the minimum eligibility indemnification requirements of the RFP and were disqualified. Dr. Foster contacted the Procurement & Warehousing Services department on October 11, 2012, and stated she was not able to perform on this contract as she has accepted another job. This left Smith Mental Health Associates as the only vendor for this contract. The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) department found out later, from Smith Mental Health Associates, that they could not guarantee the same psychiatrist will be used for the same child. The ESE department could not use this vendor for services.

The ESE department requested another solicitation (RFP 13-027-1V) to engage additional vendors. During this time frame and before the second RFP was released, Dr. Gaetano DeFilippo retired from practice. The only proposal received under RFP 13-027-1N was from Dr. Nyrma N. Ortiz, and she met the requirements under this RFP.

Dr. Nyrma Ortiz, PA, is an experienced physician who has worked with the EBD population in Broward County Public Schools for over fifteen (15) years. She has successfully passed her board certification in general-adult psychiatry, as required by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, as well as the additional board certification in Child Adolescent Psychiatry. Dr. Nyrma Ortiz is part of an exclusive, small number of psychiatrists that are board certified in both psychiatry and child/adolescent psychiatry. Dr. Nyrma Ortiz would like to continue providing these needed services under the existing RFP and the District's Exceptional Student Education department would like to continue its partnership with Dr. Nyrma Ortiz.

The demand for child and adolescent psychiatrists outweighs the supply nationally and locally. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a current contract with Institute for Child and Family Health, Inc., to provide student psychiatric services.

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The demand for child and adolescent psychiatrists outweighs the supply nationally and locally. Miami-Dade County Public Schools has a current contract with Institute for Child and Family Health, Inc., to provide student psychiatric services. Procurement & Warehousing Services contacted this vendor to see if they would be interested in performing services in Broward County, Florida; they are only interested in performing services within Dade County, Florida. Palm Beach County schools has a current contract for student psychiatric services and received only one proposal from Dr. Cleopatra Ortiz (a different person). Several years ago, the District had two additional psychiatrists (Dr. Gaetano DeFlippo and Dr. Madiwale Munir) on contract, but these doctors have retired from practice. Many of these psychiatrists do not want to provide services under a bid due to the bid's insurance requirements.

Dr. Ortiz's workload: Dr. Ortiz conducts a psychiatric evaluation for each student as part of the referral process (school and Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities referrals). She has conducted approximately 150 students between Whispering Pines Center and Cross Creek School Center for 2015-16 fiscal school year. This sometimes includes observing a student at the referring school. When determined there is a need as part of a student's re-evaluation plan, Dr. Ortiz also conducts a psychiatric evaluation for students currently attending Whispering Pines and Cross Creek.

There is an average of 300 students enrolled in Whispering Pines Center and Cross Creek School Center (approximately 150 at each). Dr. Ortiz provides services to these students in the following manner:

- Direct services as needed, observing and evaluating a student in crisis;
- Holds individual and group consultation/supervision with therapist to discuss all students, regularly scheduled and as needed;
- Collaborates with the school nurse, the student's community psychiatrist and other doctors and families regarding psychotropic medication and other issues;
- Participates in child study meetings to plan for students such as when students are being mainstreamed back to a less restrictive environment.

ESE Department has implemented numerous effective supports and services over the years to promote student success in the least restrictive environment which has led to this reduction in students in need of the EBD Separate Day schools.

It is recommended that the contract with Dr. Nyrma Ortiz be renewed for an additional year, in accordance with Special Condition 2.3 of the RFP. This is the second and final renewal for this contract. By renewing this contract for an additional year, Dr. Nyrma Ortiz will maintain the original cost per hour (\$155) that was offered in 2012. Miami-Dade County Public Schools' contract with the Institute for Child and Family Health, Inc., has a cost of \$165 per hour for these services and Palm Beach County schools' contract with Dr. Cleopatra Ortiz has a cost of \$185 per hour. If the District were to rebid this contract, we would be paying anywhere from \$165 to \$185 per hour. By renewing this contract, the estimated savings would be \$33,000 for the year.

Procurement & Warehousing Services released a Request for Information (RFI) for student psychiatric services on February 2, 2016, to see if there are any new bidders for this type of service. The purchasing agent did not receive any responses to the RFI at that time. Procurement & Warehousing Services released another RFI for student psychiatric services on April 20, 2016, and will be left on Demandstar for two months. There have been no responses to the second RFI to date.

The remaining balance under this contract is \$616,179. This remaining balance will provide enough spending authority to cover the contract for an additional year.