

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendation for Additional Spending Authority 19-021V – Student Psychiatric Services

Introduction

Responsible: Procurement & Warehousing Services (PWS)

This request is to approve the recommendation for additional spending authority for the Request for Proposal (RFP) 19-021V – Student Psychiatric Services in partnership with Nyrma N. Ortiz, P.A.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, awarded RFP 19-021V at the May 8, 2018, School Board meeting, Agenda Item EE-5, for a period of one (1) year from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, with an option for two (2) additional one (1) year renewal periods and an additional one hundred and eighty (180) days after the expiration period, if necessary. The scope of this RFP provides psychiatric services to students with emotional and behavioral disabilities.

Goods/Services Description

Responsible: Exceptional Student Learning Support (ESLS)

In Broward County Schools, psychiatric services are provided at Whispering Pines and Cross Creek schools to serve students with Emotional Behavioral Disabilities (EBD) as part of a therapeutic program identified on their Individual Educational Plan. Students identified as needing extensive therapeutic support receive services to include, but not limited to, individual and group therapy, family therapy, specialized groups, crisis management and intervention, on-going situational support, and medication management.

The District's 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 concerns. 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.

Dr. Nyrma Ortiz, PA, is an experienced physician who has worked with the EBD population in the District for over seventeen (17) 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.

There is an average of three hundred (300) students enrolled in Whispering Pines and Cross Creek schools (approximately one hundred and fifty (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 a 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; and
- Participates in child study meetings to plan for students such as when students are being mainstreamed back to a less restrictive environment.

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Procurement Method
Responsible: PWS

The procurement method chosen is through a competitive solicitation, which is required by the School Board Purchasing Policy 3320, Part II, Rule D and Florida Administrative Code 6A-1.012(7).

Procurement & Warehousing Services (PWS) procured this same service a year ago under 18-003V. PWS is currently working with ESLS to develop a new bid to replace this RFP before the end of its term. PWS has had difficulty in the past receiving additional bids for this service due to the demand for the child, and adolescent psychiatrists outweigh the supply nationally and locally. PWS is currently searching the marketplace for interested proposers for this service.

The solicitation for this RFP was released to the public through Demandstar from November 17, 2017 through January 10, 2018, where eighty-four (84) vendors were notified, and seven (7) vendors downloaded the RFP documentation. PWS received one (1) response from Nyrma N. Ortiz, P.A. who is the current provider of services. The contract was awarded at the May 8, 2018, School Board Meeting.

Financial Impact
Responsible: PWS and ESLS

RFP 19-021V spending authority of \$200,000 was approved at the May 8, 2018, School Board meeting. The funding for psychiatric services was under-projected for the 2018-2019 school year. Additionally, with the recently increased need for mental health services additional psychiatric services are needed.

The financial impact to the District for this additional spending authority will be \$200,000. The current contract award amount is \$200,000. The request to increase the spending authority by \$200,000 will bring the new spending authority to \$400,000. The additional funding source for will come from the ESLS Department Budget. The financial impact amount represents an estimated contract value; however, the amount authorized will not exceed the estimated contract award amount.