

Memorandum



Date: March 11, 2014

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor 

Subject: Response to Directive 132399: Research Enrollment of Diabetic Children in Prekindergarten Programs

Pursuant to Resolution No. R-66-14, this report provides information regarding the enrollment of children with diagnosed diabetes in prekindergarten programs and recommendations for preventing discrimination and facilitating enrollment of diabetic children in prekindergarten programs.

Diabetes impacts one of every five hundred children in the United States. The Miami-Dade County Head Start/Early Head Start program classifies diabetes as a chronic condition and the incidence of diabetes is captured in the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services' (CAHSD) ChildPlus database. Once the child is enrolled, the health services staff works with the families to provide training to the teaching staff for maintaining the condition and administering the medication. Registered dietitians work with the children and families for a tailored nutritional program that fits the needs of the child and promotes a healthy lifestyle. Many of the Head Start/Early Head Start staff are bilingual and instrumental with assisting children with diabetes and their families to integrate into the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

As a federally funded program, the Head Start/Early Head Start program does not discriminate against children with diabetes which is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For program year 2012-2013, three (3) children were identified with diabetes and for program year 2013-2014, one (1) child was diagnosed as diabetic. According to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), CAHSD can only report those health histories that have been reported voluntarily by parents. The Head Start/Early Head Start program plans to collaborate with multiple organizations in the community to facilitate the recruitment and enrollment of children with diabetes. Specifically, the program will partner with Miami Children's Hospital, which offers a complete array of diagnostic, treatment and consulting services for infants and children, along with a summer camp for children with diabetes. Working closely with social workers and outreach staff will ensure children with diabetes have equal access and the opportunity to enroll in Head Start.

The Head Start/Early Head Start program will also partner with the American Diabetes Association, Family Resource Network of Central Florida, the National Diabetes Education Program, National Institute of Health, and the Health Council of South Florida. Developing these collaborative partnerships will promote high-quality care for young children with diabetes and provide access to comprehensive services.

If additional information is required, please contact Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director at 786-469-4644.

c: Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor
Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director CAHSD
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor