


Memorandum



Date: February 1, 2022

To: Honorable Chairman Jose “Pepe” Diaz and Members, Board of County Commissioners Agenda Item No. 2(B)(9)

From: Daniella Levine Cava Mayor 

Subject: Report on the Case Management Referral Program – Directives 192626, 201419, and 211516

This report is provided in response to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) directives corresponding to File Numbers 192626 and 201419, sponsored by former Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson, and 211516, which was sponsored by the Health, Emergency Management, and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee. Each directive requires the administration to provide the Board with an annual report of information regarding the development and implementation of the Case Management Referral Program, including future funding applied for or received, program outcomes, and future program goals.

As part of my operation to catch up on the backlog of items, we are bringing you reports that were pending from the previous administration. For that reason, this report includes data for school years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, and 2020-2021.

On March 21, 2017, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-300-17, which authorized Miami-Dade County’s participation in the Together for Children Program, a countywide collaboration that identified youth at highest risk of being victims or perpetrators of violence and their families. The Case Management Referral Program has its origins in the Together for Children Program. Additionally, on June 8, 2021, Resolution No. R-577-21, the Peace and Prosperity Plan was passed by the Board of County Commissioners. Within the plan it includes working with the Together for Children coalition to ensure that services are offered comprehensively to have the greatest impact. The Together for Children Annual Report has been provided as an attachment for ease of reference.

The Case Management Referral Program includes the following components: Here Everyday Ready on Time (H.E.R.O) Truancy Program, Middle and High School Aged Program (provided by JSD’s Prevention Program), and the One Stop Educational and Community Service Centers. A description of the components, program outcomes for school years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and future goals are included in the summary below. Within the school years included in this report, my administration has not received any additional or future funding for the Case Management Referral Program.

The H.E.R.O. Truancy Prevention Program is a countywide systematic approach to reducing youth violence by identifying children most at-risk (those receiving 5 or more absences) and providing them with the necessary prevention and intervention services to increase daily school attendance. Services are provided across the following geographic regions: Homestead/Naranja/Florida City, Perrine/Richmond Heights/Goulds, Overtown, Liberty City, Northeast Corridor and Miami Gardens/Opa-Locka in Miami-Dade County (County).

Intervention services include but are not limited to student conferences, parent/guardian conferences, court appearances, wrap-around services, and follow up sessions.

School Year: 2018-2019:

The H.E.R.O. program served 1,047 families through a variety of support services that resulted in 74% of those families’ school-aged children demonstrating an improvement in school attendance. A total of 18,137 elementary school children were contacted across the 39 schools introducing them to the program, and of which 10,643 participated in the H.E.R.O. truancy prevention program through the response to intervention model. A total of 2,987 home visits were conducted, and 1,047 families participated in Truancy Child Study Team meetings.

School Year: 2019-2020:

The H.E.R.O. program served 949 families through a variety of support services that resulted in 74% of those families’ school-aged children demonstrating an improvement in school attendance. A total of 18,685 elementary school children were contacted across the 39 schools introducing them to the program, and of which 12,410 participated in the H.E.R.O. truancy prevention program through the response to intervention model. A total of 2,987 home visits were conducted, and 949 families participated in Truancy Child Study Team meetings.

School Year: 2020-2021:

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged the effectiveness of the program during the 2020-2021 school year. In the 2020-2021 cycle, the program served 1,356 families through a variety of support services that resulted in 54% of those families’ school-aged children demonstrating an improvement in attendance. In the 2020-2021 cycle, a total of 16,495 elementary school children were contacted across the 39 schools introducing them to the program, and of which 9,902 participated in the H.E.R.O. truancy prevention program through the response to intervention model. A total of 1,135 home visits were conducted, and 1,356 families participated in Truancy Child Study Team meetings.

H.E.R.O. Program		
School Year	Total Served (Truancy Child Student Team Meetings)	Improved Attendance
2018-2019	1,047	74%
2019-2020	949	74%
2020-2021	1,356	54%

Miami Dade-County Juvenile Services Department (JSD) offers the JSD Prevention Program (Prevention Program) to at-risk youth throughout Miami-Dade County. The Program offers evidence-based assessments, referrals, and case management services. Additionally, multi-disciplinary meetings are held and include professionals from different disciplines who meet regularly to discuss the service needs of participants and their treatment plans. The multi-disciplinary team is comprised of JSD’s licensed clinicians, school personnel, the JSD case

manager, and other professionals who ensure appropriate service delivery to clients with high service needs. As part of the Program, Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) will identify school-aged students, with an emphasis on middle school-aged youth, who have demonstrated four or more early-warning indicators. These indicators include but are not limited to chronic school absences, behavioral problems, failing core courses, and/or any other at-risk factors.

School Year: 2018-2019:

JSD received a total of 173 referrals from the Case Management Referral Program. All referrals were triaged within a 24/7 operation for services, of which 72% of the students were screened and offered linkage to community-based services and 28% did not respond to phone calls or home visits provided by JSD Case Managers. Home visits were provided to encourage families to participate in JSD’s voluntary program. Due to JSD having a directory of services from various Community-based Organizations, youth were linked to assessments, case management, tutoring and/or employment services. Furthermore, five families agreed to on-going case management services through JSD’s Prevention Program. Monthly multi-disciplinary meetings were held by JSD Licensed Clinicians and School personnel to ensure the progress of high-risk participants.

School Year: 2019-2020:

JSD received a total of 146 referrals from the Case Management Referral Program. All referrals were triaged within a 24/7 operation for services, of which 66 % of the students were screened and offered linkage to community-based services and 34% included families that their primary focus was their child focusing on attending school virtually. Home visits were provided to encourage families to participate in JSD’s voluntary program. Youth were linked to assessment, case management, tutoring and/or employment services. Additionally, ten families voluntarily agreed to receive on-going case management services through JSD’s Prevention Program, and 10 youth continued participating in community-based services. Monthly multi-disciplinary meetings continued throughout the year.

School Year: 2020-2021:

JSD received a total of 648 referrals from the Case Management Referral Program. All referrals were triaged within a 24/7 operation for services, of which 78% of the students were screened and offered linkage to community-based services. Home visits were provided to encourage families to participate in JSD’s voluntary program. Youth were linked to assessment, case management, tutoring and/or employment services. Referrals were made to the Peace and Prosperity Fit2Lead Summer Internship Program. Additionally, 77 families voluntarily agreed to receive on-going case management services through JSD Prevention Program, and 68 students continued participating in community-based services.

In summary, during the three school year cycles, 71% of participants were between 13-15 years old; 62% were male and 38% were female. A total of 43% were African American and 38% Hispanic. As identified by evidence-based instruments, 60% reported mental health concerns and 50% reported family issues. Participants were referred to an array of services including Institute for Child and Family Health, Inc. (ICFH), Functional Family Therapy, Psych Solutions, and Citrus Health, Community Action Team.

JSD Prevention Program		
School Year	Total Served	% of students screened & offered linkage to CBO services
2018-2019	173	72%
2019-2020	146	66%
2020-2021	648	78%

One-Stop Educational and Community Service Centers provide a comprehensive multi-disciplinary educational assessment to all students. Students obtain One Stop services through court, school, or community agency referrals or walk-in requests. The One Stop represents a partnership between the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), JSD and M-DCPS as well as numerous community-based organization partners. *Note: not funded by Children's Trust.*

School Year: 2018-2019:

In 2018-2019, One Stop Centers served a total of 914 youth across 57 schools, with 168 referrals to JSD. Additionally, 79% of the students were placed in appropriate educational setting.

School Year: 2019-2020:

In 2019-2020, One Stop Centers served a total of 970 youth across 57 schools, with 146 referrals to JSD. Additionally, 93% of the students were placed in appropriate educational setting.

School Year: 2020-2021:

In 2020-2021, One Stop Centers served a total of 868 youth across 57 schools, with 648 referrals to JSD. Additionally, 92% of the students were placed in appropriate educational setting.

One-Stop Program		
School Year	Total Served	% of Appropriate Educational Setting
2018-2019	914	79%
2019-2020	970	93%
2020-2021	868	92%

In conclusion, the Juvenile Services Department prepared this annual report to provide the Board with information regarding the development implementation, and program outcomes of the Case Management Referral Program, which was originally referred to as the Together for Children Program. During school year 2021-2022 an enhancement will be made to the Middle and High School Aged Program, which includes placing JSD Prevention Case Managers within schools that are in high crime areas. This enhancement will allow us to interact immediately with families in

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need of services and work collaborative with school personnel. The Case Management and Referral Program will continue to address the root causes of youth violence and promote positive youth development, as well as work collaboratively with my newly establish Office of Neighborhood Safety to bring together residents, community stakeholders, and county representative to solve public safety and enhance the quality of life for residents in Miami-Dade County.

As the Case Management Referral Program falls under the umbrella of the Peace and Prosperity Plan, the administration will report information for future years regarding the development and implementation of the Case Management Referral Program within the quarterly reports for the Peace and Prosperity Plan pursuant to Resolution No. R-577-21.

Per Ordinance No. 14-65, this report shall be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

Should you require additional information, please contact JSD Director, Cathy Burgos, at (305) 755-6202.

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