

Memorandum



Date: November 20, 2025

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Report on the Case Management Referral Program – Directive 230793

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(4)
September 1, 2026

This report is in response to Resolution No. R-516-23 which was sponsored by Commissioner Marleine Bastien and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on June 21, 2023. The resolution directed the County Mayor or Mayor's designee to provide the Board with an annual report of information regarding the development and implementation of the Case Management Referral Program (Program), including future funding applied for or received, program outcomes, and future program goals.

Executive Summary:

The report provides a description of the components within the Program and its outcomes for the 2024-2025 school year. For the 2024-2025 school year, the Program reached out to 17,887 parents/guardians via direct mailings, phone calls, and in-person interactions across 40 schools to introduce the service. 2,462 families were directly (in-person) interacted with for a Truancy Study Team Meeting via a home visit and 1,858 student conferences were held. Of these students, 56% advanced to Child Student Team Meetings after contact was made.

Background:

On March 21, 2017, the Board adopted Resolution No. R-300-17, authorizing Miami-Dade County's participation in the Together for Children Program, a countywide initiative aimed at identifying and supporting youth at high risk of involvement in violence, either as victims or perpetrators, along with their families.

This initiative is now known as the Case Management Referral Program and includes key components such as the Here Everyday Ready on Time (H.E.R.O) Truancy Program, the Middle and High School Aged Program (provided by Miami-Dade County Juvenile Service Division's Prevention Program), and the One Stop Educational and Community Service Centers. While no additional or future funding has been allocated to this program in recent years, its goals remain consistent. The Program continues to address the root causes of youth violence, promote positive youth development, and collaborate to engage residents, community stakeholders, and County representatives in enhancing public safety and quality of life.

The H.E.R.O. Truancy Prevention Program is a countywide systematic approach targeting a reduction in youth violence. H.E.R.O. identifies children most at risk (those receiving 5 or more absences) and provides 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 the 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: 2024-2025:

For the 2024-2025 school year, the Program reached out to 17,887 parents/guardians via direct mailings, phone calls, and in-person interactions across 40 schools to introduce the service. Below are some highlights:

- 2,462 families were directly (in-person) interacted with for a Truancy Study Team Meeting via a home visit and 1,858 student conferences were held.

- 56% (1,379) of these students advanced to Child Student Team Meetings after contact was made.
- 77% of students served by HERO program had an increase in attendance in 2024-2025 when compared to the 2023-2024 school year.

H.E.R.O. Program		
School Year	Total Served - <i>Truancy Child Student Team Meetings</i>	Improved Attendance
2018-2019	1,047	74%
2019-2020	949	74%
2020-2021	1,356	54%
2021-2022	1,392	42%
2022-2023	1,040	72%
2023-2024	876	77%
2024-2025	1,379	76%

Miami Dade-County Juvenile Services Department (JSD) offers the JSD Prevention Program (Prevention Program) to at-risk youth throughout the 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) identifies 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: 2024-2025:

The JSD Prevention Program received 113 referrals from the Middle and High School Aged Program. Below are several highlights:

- Out of the 113 referrals:
 - 44 accepted case management services.
 - 11 were linked to community-based services
 - 6 were enrolled in outside services
- For the 44 participants in the Prevention case management program, evidence-based instruments identified:
 - 21% reported mental health concerns
 - 12% reported family issues
 - 7% reported substance abuse concerns
 - 12% risk to re-offend

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%

2021-2022	211	78%
2022-2023	196	50%
2023-2024	168	48%
2024-2025	113	10%

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, 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.

School Year: 2024-25:

In 2024-2025, One Stop Centers served a total of 1,358 youth throughout the county. Of these, 99% of the students served were placed in an 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%
2021-2022	855	96%
2022-2023	1075	99%
2023-2024	1431	99%
2024-2025	1358	99%

Per Ordinance No. 22-134, this report shall be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact David Clodfelter, Director, Office of Management and Budget at 305-375-5143.

C: Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
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