

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

RFP NO. 057-JJ10 – SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES

1. Will M-DCPS be choosing a primary vendor (as well as alternate vendors) to provide services for this contract?

RESPONSE: The District reserves the right to make awards as determined to be in its best interest.

2. Are all required M-DCPS forms/documents, that must be submitted with the proposal, included in the emailed version (accessible on the M-DCPS Bid Solicitation Portal) of the RFP?

RESPONSE: Yes.

3. Who are the current providers for Speech Language Pathology (SLP) services?

RESPONSE: See below.

- a. Please provide the current bill rate by provider per discipline (SLP)

RESPONSE: See below.

- b. Please provide the # of FTEs (full time equivalents) by provider by discipline (SLP)

RESPONSE: Information not available at this time.

4. Have your current providers been able to meet all of your current SLP services need at Miami-Dade County Public Schools? Do your current providers need to re-bid or are they are currently in an extension year?

RESPONSE: The current providers on Contract No. 070-HH10 are being extended through June 30, 2010; however, they may also respond to the advertised RFP if they choose to do so.

5. How many district SLPs does Miami-Dade County Public Schools have on staff?

RESPONSE: 187

6. Does Miami-Dade County Public Schools currently have any SLP compensatory time to make-up?

RESPONSE: No.

7. How many anticipated SLP unfilled positions does Miami-Dade County Public Schools have for the 2009-2010 school year?

RESPONSE: Currently 3.

8. Will therapists have access to Internet capabilities/computers at Miami-Dade County Public Schools?

RESPONSE: Only with regards to required duties at the schools. Computers may not be available for all tasks.

9. In regards to billable hours:

- a. It is our experience that we are able to bill using a fee for service hourly model requested; additionally we are often able to provide more affordable pricing for districts using a daily per diem model. Would both models be accepted?

RESPONSE: No.

- b. Are IEP meetings billable?

RESPONSE: Yes, within the limits of daily billing maximums.

- c. Are orientation sessions billable?

RESPONSE: Yes, those provided and required by MDCPS only.

- d. How many hours are in a typical school day (i.e. how many hours are therapists allowed to be on-site)

RESPONSE: 6 hours plus a maximum of 1 hour for recordkeeping. Time on-site prior to the start of school is allowed but not reimbursed.

- e. Are we allowed to bill for paperwork and travel between school sites?

RESPONSE: A maximum of 1 hour per day for MDCPS required recordkeeping is allowed. No billing is allowed for travel, agency required recordkeeping, or anything in excess of 1 hour per day.

- f. Are we allowed to submit a monolingual rate as well as a bilingual rate?

RESPONSE: No.

10. On what date do you anticipate making this award and notifying vendors of the award status?

RESPONSE: It is anticipated that an award will be made at the Board Meeting of June 17, 2009. Notification to the successful awardees will be made within a few days thereafter.

11. How will you notify the vendors (ie letter, e-mail, etc)

RESPONSE: Official notification will be made via U.S. Mail

12. Our agency faced some challenges 2 years ago with the Purchase Order process. Will your awarded vendors receive enough funding in the initial purchase order to cover the entire school year for all clinicians placed within the district?

RESPONSE: It is anticipated that we will plan for this but it is not guaranteed.

13. In order to properly recruit for the needs of the district, does Miami Dade County Public Schools know when the specific number of clinicians needed will be provided to the awarded vendors? In addition, how long will the awarded providers be given to fulfill the needs of the district before moving to the next eligible provider?

RESPONSE: The specific numbers of anticipated FTEs is known at this time but subject to change. There is no way to anticipate the number of clinicians per vendor as that will be determined by the terms of the award as well as the capacity of each vendor. There is no set time limit that vendors have been given with regards to filling a need before moving to another vendor. This is due to the fact that individual circumstances vary with regards to the needs of the district as well as to the vendor's capacity to full positions.

14. Does Miami Dade County Public Schools allow for subcontracting during the term of this agreement?

RESPONSE: No.

15. Is it the intention of Miami Dade County Public Schools to award to multiple vendors at once, or to award to a primary and a secondary vendor?

RESPONSE: See response #1.

16. Who are your current vendors and what are current rates for services?

RESPONSE: See attachments

17. How many fulltime SLP openings are there? How many hours per day and how many school days per year is full time?

RESPONSE: See response #5. "Full time" does not apply to hourly or contracted staff. Billing will be allowed for a maximum of 7 hours per day as outlined above. Currently billing is allowed only for actual days that students are in school. It is anticipated that some additional days will be allowed for meetings.

18. Are SLPs paid when they go from school to school? Do they go school to school? If they do is there a separate mileage reimbursement payment?

RESPONSE: Every attempt is made to limit travel within each day; however, most SLPs are required to service more than one school location. Additionally, contracted SLPs may change locations within the school year as they cover leaves and short-term needs of the district. M-DCPS does not reimburse for mileage of contract providers nor is travel time reimbursable.

19. Are CFYs accepted?

RESPONSE: No.

20. What is the typical caseload of a FT SLP?

RESPONSE: Depending upon the special populations served, 40-80 contact hours per week. Most direct services are provided in a small group format in a therapist's office or in classrooms.

21. What are the school hours and how many days per school year? Are there any summer hours available?

RESPONSE: See response # 17 for part 1 of this question. There are no summer hours available.

22. Since we are not a current provider in your school district, can we submit credentials of our current SLP employees instead?

RESPONSE: Yes.

23. On Attachment A/Proposer's Fee sheet, can you define services district-wide and region-wide?

RESPONSE: Please disregard the option for region-wide. The District is interested in agencies who can provide services throughout the entire school district.

Business Operations
Ofelia San Pedro, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA,
AND SONDR A PIERCE, D.B.A. ABC SPEECH &
LANGUAGE THERAPY; BOCA CENTER SPEECH; EBS
(EDUCATIONAL BASED SERVICES); HEARING AND
SPEECH CENTER OF FLORIDA, INC.; AND INVO
HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES, INC., PURSUANT TO
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. 070-HH10 – SPEECH
AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN: IMPROVE AND EXPAND STUDENT SERVICES

Request For Proposals No. 070-HH10 – SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES, opened on April 22, 2008, is to provide speech and language pathology services to students meeting eligibility requirements, through the Office of Special Education, Alternative Outreach and Psychological Services. This is a term proposal. Twenty proposers responded to this advertised solicitation.

Services may include articulation therapy, language therapy, fluency therapy, and voice therapy, in addition to screenings and diagnostics. Students may be in regular programs or in ESE programs (e.g., autistic, learning disabled, physically impaired, educable or trainable mentally handicapped).

The Selection Committee met to evaluate proposals received in response to the Request For Proposals on April 30, 2008. Twenty proposals were presented for consideration: Aleisha Linck MS, CCC-SLP; All-Star Kids Rehab, Inc.; Boca Speech Center; Community Rehab Associates, Inc.; Cumberland Therapy Services, Inc.; EBS (Educational Based Services); First Alert Staffing, LLC; Hearing and Speech Center of Florida, Inc.; Invo Health Care Associates, Inc.; Kaleidoscope Family Solutions, Inc.; Maxim Healthcare Services; Multi-Lingual Speech Group, Inc.; National Therapy Services; Cobb Pediatric Therapy Service; Professional Placement Resources, LLC; Progressus Therapy, LLC; Sondra Pierce, d.b.a. ABC Speech & Language Therapy; Staffing Options and Solutions, Inc.; Sunbelt Staffing Solutions, Inc.; and Supplemental Health Care.

Based on the discussion, the Committee chose to recommend Sondra Pierce, d.b.a. ABC Speech & Language Therapy; Boca Speech Center; EBS (Educational Based Services); Hearing and Speech Center of Florida, Inc.; and Invo HealthCare Services, Inc.

Due to the national and local critical shortage of speech and language pathologists, the District has a continued need for these services and is, therefore, contracting with all proposers. Staff will contact the primary agency offering the lowest fee, until resources cannot meet the District's needs, and will similarly contact the alternate agencies.

Fund Source

0420 – Contracted Programs

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, **AUTHORIZE** the Superintendent, or designee, to enter into contractual services agreements between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Sondra Pierce, d.b.a. ABC Speech and Language Therapy; Boca Speech Center; EBS (Educational Based Services); Hearing and Speech Center of Florida, Inc.; and Invo Healthcare Associates, Inc., pursuant to Request For Proposals No. 070-HH10 – SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES, to provide speech and language pathology services to students meeting eligibility requirements, through the Office of Special Education, Alternative Outreach and Psychological Services, during the term of the contract, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, as follows:

Highest Rated Proposals.

PRIMARY

1. EBS (EDUCATIONAL BASED SERVICES)
9 LACRUE STREET, SUITE 210
CONCORDVILLE, PA 19331-0911
JOHN A. GUMPERT
SPECIAL EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$62 per hour.

ALTERNATE

2. SONDRA PIERCE
D.B.A. ABC SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY
5703 SOUTHWEST 87 AVENUE
COOPER CITY, FL 33328
SONDRA PIERCE, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$78 per hour.

3. BOCA SPEECH CENTER
160 N.W. 4 STREET
BOCA RATON, FL 33432
AUDREY B. GREENWALD, PRESIDENT

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$72 per hour.

4. HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER OF FLORIDA, INC.
9425 S.W. 72 STREET, SUITE 261
MIAMI, FL 33173
DEBRA KNOX, M.S., CCC-SLP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$85 per hour.

5. INVO HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES, INC.
1780 KENDARBREN DRIVE
JAMISON, PA 18929
JASON RALPH, VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$64 per hour.

6. Authorize Procurement Management Services to purchase up to the budgeted amount of \$1,200,000.

OSP/ae

Business Operations
Ofelia San Pedro, Deputy Superintendent

SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AND AUDREY B. GREENWALD, MS, CCC-PA, D.B.A. BOCA SPEECH CENTER; BILINGUALS, INC./CHILD & PARENT SERVICES; COMMUNITY REHAB ASSOCIATES, INC.; HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER OF FLORIDA, INC.; INVO HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES, INC.; PROGRESSUS THERAPY, INC.; SONDRRA PIERCE, D.B.A. ABC SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY; THE FUTURES HEALTHCORE; AND TOP ECHELON CONTRACTING, INC., PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. 077-FF10 – SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Request For Proposals No. 077-FF10 – SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES, which opened on May 4, 2006, is to establish a contract, to provide speech and language pathology services, needed as related support services, for the Office of Special Education, Alternative Outreach and Psychological Services. This is a term proposal. Of 40 proposers sent proposal forms or card notices of this advertised proposal, 19 responded, with 9 proposals meeting specifications, 8 non-responsive proposals and 2 no proposals.

A meeting of the Selection Committee to evaluate the proposals was held on May 15, 2006. Seventeen (17) proposals were presented for consideration: Audrey B. Greenwald, MS, CCC-PA, d.b.a. Boca Speech Center; Bilinguals Inc./Child & Parent Services; Community Rehab Associates, Inc.; Cumberland Therapy Services, Inc.; Hearing and Speech Center of Florida, Inc.; Invo Healthcare Associates, Inc.; Kaleidoscope Family Solutions, Inc.; Progressus Therapy, Inc.; Soliant Health, Inc.; Soliant Health, d.b.a. Bilinguals Therapies, Inc.; Soliant Health, d.b.a. ProCare Therapy, Inc.; Sunbelt Staffing Solutions, Inc.; The Center for Bilingual Speech & Language Disorders, Inc.; The Futures HealthCore; and Top Echelon Contracting, Inc. After considerable discussion, the Committee recommended that nine (9) proposers be recommended for award. Eight (8) proposers did not meet the minimum requirement of the RFP.

The speech and language pathology service agencies that are listed in this item with out-of-state addresses are national agencies that provide staff for a number of health-related fields in different states. These agencies will contract with independent pathologists who are licensed in the State of Florida to provide these services, upon request. There is a critical shortage of speech pathologists, however, every attempt will be made to utilize the agencies offering the lowest hourly rates, to the extent possible, based upon the availability of pathologists.

Fund Source
0100 - General

M/WBE Eligibility
None

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, **AUTHORIZE** the Superintendent of Schools, to negotiate and enter into contractual service agreements between The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, and Audrey B. Greenwald, MS, CCC-PA, d.b.a. Boca Speech Center; Bilinguals Inc./Child & Parent Services; Community Rehab Associates, Inc.; Hearing and Speech Center of Florida, Inc; Invo Healthcare Associates, Inc.; Progressus Therapy, Inc.; Sandra Pierce, d.b.a. ABC Speech and Language Therapy; The Futures HealthCore; and Top Echelon Contracting, Inc., pursuant to Request For Proposals No. 077-FF10 – SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES, to establish a contract, to provide, speech and language pathology services, needed as related support services, for the Office of Special Education, Alternative Outreach and Psychological Services, effective July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, as follows:

1. AUDREY B. GREENWALD, MS, CCC-PA
D.B.A. BOCA SPEECH CENTER
160 N.W. 4TH STREET
BOCA RATON, FL 33432
OWNER: AUDREY B. GREENWALD

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$85 per hour.

2. BILINGUALS, INC./CHILD & PARENT SERVICES
60 MADISON AVENUE – 8TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NY 10010
DR. TRUDY FONT-PADRON, EXEC. DIRECTOR

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$85 per hour.

3. COMMUNITY REHAB ASSOCIATES, INC.
3950 3RD STREET NORTH, SUITE D
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33703
SUMMER GOWER, CONTRACT MANAGER

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$60 per hour.
4. HEARING AND SPEECH CENTER OF FLORIDA, INC.
9425 SUNSET DRIVE, SUITE 261
MIAMI, FL 33173
LILLIAN POMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$85 per hour.
5. INVO HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATES, INC.
350 S. MAIN STREET, SUITE 315
DOYLESTOWN, PA 18901
JASON RALPH, VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$61 per hour.
6. PROGRESSUS THERAPY, INC.
2701 N. ROCKY POINT DRIVE, SUITE 650
TAMPA, FL 33607
JOHN K. HOEY, PRESIDENT

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$56.50 per hour.
7. SONDR A PIERCE
D.B.A. ABC SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY
5703 S.W. 87TH AVEUNUE
COOPER CITY, FL 33328
OWNER: SONDR A PIERCE, MS, CCC-SLP

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$78 per hour.
8. THE FUTURES HEALTHCORE
136 WILLIAM STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01105
ERIN EDWARDS, PRESIDENT

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$69 per hour.

9. TOP ECHELON CONTRACTING, INC.
P.O. BOX 20990
CANTON, OH 44701-0990
DEBRA M. FLEDDERJOHANN, PRESIDENT

Speech and Language Pathology Services @ \$65 per hour.

10. Authorize Procurement Management Services to purchase up to the not to exceed amount of \$500,000.

OSP/lja