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**Miami Dade County Public Schools  
Division of Career & Technical Education  
1450 Northeast Second Avenue Room 817  
Miami, Fl 33132**

**Minutes of  
HEALTH SCIENCE EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Thursday, May 28, 2009  
Mercy Hospital – Bayside Pavilion  
Room: Atlantic Conference Room  
3663 South Miami Avenue  
Miami, Fl 33133**

**9:00 -12:00 noon**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Deborah Piehl, Chair  
Director of Nursing Education  
Mercy Hospital

Ronda Mims, Instructional Supervisor  
Health Science Department  
M-DCPS

Lisa Gomez, Dept. Head  
Miami Lakes Ed. Center

Mary Ellmore, Dept. Head  
Homestead Senior High

Paula Porter, Dept. Head  
Robert Morgan Educational Center

Rosalie Poyntz, Dept Head  
Lindsey Hopkins Educational Center

Magaly Parets, Curr. Support Spec.  
Miami Dade County Public Schools

Jan Spivak, Curriculum Specialist  
Career Pathways CTE Department

Sandra Tilton, Curriculum Specialist  
Career Pathways CTE Department

Glenda Algaze, Academy Leader  
Miami Lakes Educational Center

Ileana Driscoll, Teacher  
John A. Ferguson Senior High

Brenda Graibe, Teacher  
American Senior High School

Dianne Panka, Teacher  
American Senior High School

Hilda Vega-Zeyrek  
John A. Ferguson Senior High

Marc T. Mortensen, Pastor  
First Baptist Church Westwood Lakes

## CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Deborah Piehl started the meeting at 9:15 a.m. with a moment of reflection and then she proceeded to introduced all members present.

The minutes were read and moved by Ms. Glenda Algaze to approve them with some typographical changes. Ms Mims started talking about the different programs that we have in the different schools throughout Miami Dade County. She also referred to Allied Health with three areas of concentration and also that it can be used to implement the pharmacy and medical assistant curriculum in the secondary years. Also, Ms. Mims mentioned that at the end of 2009-2010 school year, the school grade will include industry certification as one of the elements for their school grade. Starting that school year, FCAT will only be 50% of the school grade. Ms. Mims recommended the teachers present at the meeting that they should encourage students to take their industry certification at the end of the school year, since it is going to be an important part of the school grade, and also future funding for the school.

The different certifications that we are currently being offered are:

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Certified Nursing Assistant  | (CNA)        |
| Electrocardiogram            | (EKG)        |
| First Responder              |              |
| Health Unit Coordinator      | (HUC)        |
| Medical Assistant            | (CMA or RMA) |
| Medical Coder & Biller       |              |
| Medical Laboratory Assistant |              |
| Pharmacy Technician          |              |
| Practical Nursing            | (LPN)        |

We also have Dental Aide, in the secondary schools (Robert Morgan Senior, Miami Lakes Senior and Miami Northwestern) with two schools doing articulation during the summer at the Post-Secondary Centers (Robert Morgan Educational Center and Lindsey Hopkins), in order for the students to become Dental Assistants.

EKG in high school is a only half a credit, taking only half of the year to complete the curriculum, therefore those schools that have the nursing assistant, they also offer the Home Health Aide (HHA) in order to complete the entire year. In the case of Medical Assistant they teach EKG the first half of the year, and the second half they complete the year with a direct study in which they teach the phlebotomy part of the Medical Assistant Curriculum.

We have several First Responder Programs at different high schools, and most of them have an articulation with the Fire fighters. At Miami Edison they have an offer from a private school, with opportunities of scholarships where at the end of the program the students will have completed the EMS program.

We also have some schools that offers Health Unit Coordinator, and there is a certification available to be taken by the students, and the program is one year long, after taking Health Science 1 and Health Science 2.

As we mentioned before HHA, is a half a year credit, usually paired with EKG.

Medical Assistant, which is taught in the high schools through Allied Health Assistant, has an articulation with the post-secondary centers, and they complete the program during the summer of the senior year at Robert Morgan and Miami Lakes Educational Centers. We have been successfully offering the articulation from the senior students from South Dade Senior High, Robert Morgan Senior and Miami Lakes Senior. They all are able to complete the competencies and the hours during the summer, and the teachers are encouraging the students to sit for any of the two tests available, either to become Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) or Registered Medical Assistants (RMA).

Medical Laboratory Assistant is another program that we offered in our High Schools, Miami Springs and William H. Turner Technical Center, and when they graduate from high school, they can go to Miami Dade College and complete the program

Medical Billing and Coding is also offered at Lindsey Hopkins and DA Dorsey, and the district just purchased a software program to support the technology implementation in the program. DA Dorsey is also trying to get the COE accreditation, which all other Post-Secondary Centers in Miami Dade County already have.

Pharmacy Technician, at a high school is offered as Pharmacy Aide, and they are trying to implement the regulation that as of 2010, the school that teaches the program, in order for the student to be able to sit for the certification, the school needs to be approved. Miami-Dade County Public Schools have been offering the Pharmacy Technician Program for many years, and we are trying to come with an articulation agreement in order for the students after they finish high school they can complete the program at DA Dorsey.

Practical Nursing Program, is being offered at Homestead Senior for many years, having a 100% passing rate on the test. Ms. Mary Ellmore, Practical Nursing Department Head, at Homestead Senior will be retiring at the end of this school year, and it seems that due to the budget cuts and , her position will not be re-budget, and one of the other three teachers will have to be doing Ms. Ellmore's job.

Ms. Piehl, asked how can she, as the head of the nursing department of Mercy Hospital, could find out if a school is properly accredited or not, since she gets many requests for clinical spaces from different private schools, but they concerned that they are not properly accredited, and that could be a big issue for their institution, and the safety of their patients. The Practical Nurse department heads suggested to Ms. Piehl, to only accept the schools that are well known in the community for their clinical rotations, that way they can be certain of their credentials and the quality of instruction.

Computerized clinical program, was also discussed, and since Lindsey have the program, it was suggested that the department head at Lindsey Ms. Poyntz will do it also for Robert Morgan.

Vision Care is offered at Felix Varela and William H. Turner Technical Center.

Ms. Mims emphasized that more and more every day the industry certification is more and more important to the schools, and schools are aware of their importance, therefore teachers should make the effort not only for students to take the test at the end of the school year, but to improve their passing rates. More and more the emphasis in high school, is not only completion, and retention but to be ready and be prepared for the job market after they finish high school.

## NEW BUSINESS

Ms Mims reported that the district was able to purchase the NOELLE Simulator, for the three technical centers in order to help them with the OB training.

In 2006 Miami Dade County Public Schools was applying for re-accreditation from the National League of Nursing for their Practical Nursing Programs. In March 2009, we received the official notification from NLN that we are no longer accredited. The main reason for not re-accrediting Miami Dade County Public Schools was that the present faculty does not have the MSN which is a major requirement for accreditation. An effort is being made that all new hires for Practical Nursing must have a Master in Nursing.

Ms. Poyntz asked if it was possible that Lindsey could be accredited for the Medical Coding and Billing together with DA Dorsey.

Ms. Jan Spivak and Ms. Sandy Tilton, both from Career & Technical Department, who are in charge of the Career Pathways, and the articulation for Miami Dade County Public Schools, informed the committee all the different activities that they had in 2008, which were the Career Expo in April, the day in the life of a nurse, and all the meetings with the counselors, in order to maintain them informed of the different programs available not only in secondary but the articulation with post-secondary institutions. They both also mentioned that this coming school year, they are planning different activities again, and plan to improve in the dissemination of the information with pamphlets, posters, etc., in order to offer all students the information that they need to be involved in the different career opportunities not only during high schools but also in post-secondary education.

Ms. Tilton shared with the committee the new Newsletter created by CTE, which not only informs but shows the different activities in which the students are involved throughout the year.

It was also mentioned the new activity that we started this school year called the student ambassador, in which in the field of health science, was to have male nurses to mentor male students in the career of Practical Nursing or Nursing Assistant to make them see

not only the need, but also the opportunities that exist. It was suggested that mentoring should be develop to all modalities, because that way students will be more motivated as long as they can keep in contact with their mentors for questions, or perhaps even field trips to their work places and shadow them for few hours during the school year.

Next meeting is scheduled for Miami Lakes Educational Center for the month of November 2009.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.