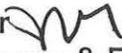


**TO:** Juvenile Welfare Board Members

**FROM:** James E. Mills, Executive Director   
Lisa A. Sahulka, Director of Programs & Finance 

### **Requested Actions**

The Juvenile Welfare Board is requested to approve the transfer of \$124,706 from the Directions – Intensive Adolescent Day Treatment (IADT) program in the following manner: \$112,706 to the Directions – Kid Connection (KC) program for service expansion, and \$12,000 to New and Expanded funding for FY 01-02.

### **Options**

1. Approve the request.
2. Transfer the Directions IADT funds (\$124,706) to New and Expanded funding in FY 01-02.
3. Transfer \$112,706 to Directions for an expansion of the Kid Connection program. Transfer the remaining \$12,000 to the New and Expanded process.
4. Deny the request.
5. Take any other action the Board deems appropriate.

### **Recommended Actions**

**Transfer \$124,706 from the Directions – Intensive Adolescent Day Treatment (IADT) program in the following manner: \$112,706 for an expansion of the Directions – Kid Connection (KC), and \$12,000 to New and Expanded funding for FY 2001-2002.**

### **Source of JWB Funds**

The FY 01-02 Program Budget – Continuation Fund.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The allocation for the Directions IADT program would be decreased from \$124,706 to \$0. The allocation for the Directions Kids Connection program would be increased from \$116,286 to \$228,992. The New and Expanded fund would increase from \$500,000 to \$512,000.

### **Narrative**

On March 8, 2001 the JWB Board approved the reallocation of PEMHS - Intensive Adolescent Day Treatment (IADT) program funding to the Alternatives for Children in Crisis (ACC) program because the Pinellas County School Board moved the program to an on campus location, making the program ineligible for JWB funding. Recently, Directions was also informed by the Pinellas

County School Board administration that the Directions – IADT program will be moved to an on-campus location, making the program ineligible for the FY 2001-02 JWB allocation of \$124,706.

Directions has requested that they be permitted to use \$112,706 of this funding to expand their current Kid Connections (KC) program from two to four Pinellas County elementary schools, making a total of four KC programs in four Pinellas County elementary. The Directions- KC programs at Curlew and Bardmoor have been highly regarded by teaching professionals, and have consistently met or exceeded JWB requirements over the past five years.

Several elementary schools, such as Tarpon Springs, Plum, Seminole and Lake St. George, have requested this program, however, funding has not been available.

The agency has contacted JWB staff and school officials regarding the selection of elementary school sites for the new programs and used the following criteria for the selection process:

1. The school is located in north-to-central Pinellas County (north of 62nd Ave No., St. Petersburg).
2. The school is not receiving services from other JWB funded programs.
3. The school has a need for services as indicated by 1999-00 Pinellas County School data that depicts for all elementary schools:
  - a. The number of disciplinary referrals
  - b. The percentage of students receiving reduced/free lunches
  - c. The percentage of students missing more than 21 days of school per year
  - d. The percentage of students who are bussed to school
4. The school has at least 600 students.
5. The school has suitable office space to house the program.
6. The school is willing to collaborate and cooperate with the program.
7. The school has requested program services.

Based on an analysis of the above criteria, Seminole and Tarpon Springs Elementary schools ranked very high in all the areas listed above. Additionally, virtually all of the schools that ranked higher in criteria #3 are already being served by a JWB program. Pinellas County School Board staff have concurred with this recommendation.

The Directions – Kid Connection programs have been funded by JWB as Elementary Mental Health Operation programs (ELMO) since FY 89-90, but in 1996 and 1997 the agency changed the name and methodology of the programs in order to make them more asset based, less clinical, and much more in concert with JWB's Strategic Plan. Currently, these programs provide school-based juvenile delinquency prevention and early intervention services to children and their parents, and consultation services to Pinellas County School Board staff. Each program employs a full-time licensed mental health therapist, who provides services that include local school/community events, outreach, skill building, violence prevention, consultation, staff training, family support, teacher support, individual and group counseling, and parent training. Each therapist works out of an office provided by the schools, and focuses on children (and their families), who are experiencing difficulties at school such as behavior problems, poor school performance, withdrawal or other concerns. The first step of the program is to improve the communication between the child, family, and school in order to develop the "kid connection". Referrals are accepted from the school staffing teams, principals, teachers, and parents. Directions has recently agreed to extend program services to children who attend on-site after-school programs.

The new funding would expand the programs to two new schools and include two additional mental health therapists. The agency will utilize existing staff to provide supervision and support for the two new programs, enabling the agency to operate the programs at less cost. The agency's administrative rate in FY 2000-01 for KC was 20.4%, however JWB was charged a lower rate (18.4%) for administrative costs, and it is expected that the lower rate for JWB will continue in FY 2001-02.

As of August of FY 2000-01, the KC program has served 149 participants individually, and served over 1300 participants in group activities. The program has achieved minimum service levels for this year, and is on track to input all measurable objective data into SAMIS for FY 2000-01.

Prior to FY 2000-01, the KC programs reported individually, and in the past three years have helped numerous families "connect" with their school, and their children have experienced success in classroom functioning, increased parental involvement, asset development, and maintaining their school placement status.

In FY 1999-00, Bardmoor and Curlew both achieved 100% of their applicable measurable objectives, but due to vacancies, missed their minimum service levels for individuals even though they greatly exceeded service levels for groups. In FY 1998-99, both Bardmoor and Curlew exceeded or substantially met all of their objectives and minimum service levels. In FY 1997-98, both exceeded or met 100% of their objectives (6/6), and 100% of their minimum service levels.

JWB funds a range of elementary school-based programs throughout the county, operated by several different agencies (i.e., the Children's Home, PEMHS, the Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, etc.). However, none of these agencies are currently providing services to the Tarpon Springs or Seminole Elementary schools.

Kid Connection programs are asset-based early intervention programs, and are consistent with JWB's Strategic Plan's focus on building assets and reducing risks.

Staff Resource person: Gary Cernan