

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Request Grant Recommendation Letter for Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida

DEPARTMENT: Community Services **DIVISION:** Administration

AUTHORIZED BY: *Phillip C. Stalvey* **CONTACT:** Phillip C. Stalvey **EXT.** 3100
Phillip C. Stalvey, Director

Agenda Date <u>7-22-03</u> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Work Session <input type="checkbox"/> Briefing <input type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing – 1:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing – 7:00 <input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and authorize Chairman to sign letter of recommendation for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida in support of a grant request to combat the public health epidemic of childhood obesity.

BACKGROUND:

A recent study conducted by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and a study published in the April 10, 2003, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, have found and shown a link between obesity and a number of high-risk physical diseases contributing to a startling level of despair among many disadvantaged and minority children.

According to the Florida Department of Health, obesity in children has become the number one health problem and is epidemic in scope. Obesity in our children is linked to later life development of a variety of chronic diseases and conditions including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, coronary heart disease and stroke. Of even more immediate concern is the fact that, according to the U.S. Surgeon General, one in four overweight children are showing early signs of type II diabetes. Previously only considered an adult disease, pre-diabetes is becoming a far too common diagnosis in obese children as young as four to six years old. Within the groups classified by the Florida Department of Health as overweight or obese, minority races are too well-represented. This targeted group of children are already at-risk for being exposed to a risky lifestyle; poor health, poor health habits, limited access to health care, and limited health education heighten the risk factors faced daily by these children.

For nearly 60 years – since 1944 – Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida has been providing safe, affordable after-school care and programming targeted to at-risk youth and their families, programming designed to help young people acquire the values, skills and knowledge necessary to reach their full potential.

Funding will allow comprehensive development of a long-term viable and socially interwoven curriculum called *Health Masters Club* designed with and for low-income, at-risk children to improve diet and fitness and reduce obesity that will help improve the quality of life affecting our young children in Seminole County.

Reviewed by:
Co Atty: _____
DFS: _____
Other: _____
DCM: <u><i>ES</i></u>
CM: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>
File No. <u>CCS02</u>



July 9, 2003

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Local Initiative Funding Partnership Program
c/o Health Research and Educational Trust of New Jersey
ATTN: Ms. Pauline Seitz, Director
760 Alexander Road
Princeton, New Jersey 08543

Dear Ms. Seitz:

Childhood obesity is currently the number one public health problem facing the children in Central Florida, and as the Chairman of the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners, I know only too well how important it is to the future health of our community that we work to find a solution to this growing health risk today. As a result, I am writing this letter in support of *Health Masters Club*, a program designed to reduce the risk of childhood obesity among the many at-risk children who live in Central Florida.

Health Masters Club is a collaborative project made up of many excellent organizations from within our community. At the heart of this project is Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida. I have seen first-hand the wonderful work done by Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida in the Clubs they operate in Seminole County and the effective way they implement and monitor all of their grant funding. I know that the funds they are requesting from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation are much needed and will be put to excellent use to help our community take those first much-needed steps towards empowering our youth to build a healthier lifestyle.

Sincerely,

DARYL G. McLAIN, Chairman
Seminole County
Board of County Commissioners

DOCUMENT ACTION FORM

DATE: July 9, 2003

SUBJECT: Request Grant Recommendation For Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida

AUTHORITY FOR PROCESSING:


Department Director Signature

1. To be placed on Report for BCC Meeting on 7-22-03
[Date]

2. Signature Needed by Chairman Yes

3. Board Approved on [Date] _____

4. Other [Specify] _____

NOTE: One original and one copy of document or letter needed for original signature (Not applicable for Resolutions or Ordinances - original only.)

Additional copies of documents should be forwarded if applicable and required for proper distribution.

DIRECTIONS FROM ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT FOR FINAL PROCESSING OF ORIGINAL. EXECUTED DOCUMENTS BY COUNTY COMMISSION RECORDS.

Return original document with Chairman's signature. _____

