

JNG 11-123



**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST**

August 8, 2011

The Honorable Rebeca Sosa, County Commissioner
District 6
Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, Fl 33128

Dear Commissioner Sosa:

I am in receipt of your memorandum dated August 2, 2011 seeking an ethics opinion. In your memorandum, you state that you serve as the Chairwoman of the Miami-Dade County Economic Development and Social Services Committee and have also been appointed as the Commission liaison to the Head Start program. You are employed by the Miami-Dade Public Schools as a Curriculum Specialist for the Adult Work Force Program. According to your memorandum, your job duties as a curriculum specialist are unrelated to the Head Start educational program provided throughout the school district and you do not interact with the Head Start Program at any level. You wish to know whether a conflict of interest exists for you to serve as the BCC liaison for the Head Start Program and simultaneously work in the school district as a curriculum specialist.

A voting conflict of interest is created if an action or decision of the Board of County Commissioners could benefit you directly or indirectly in a manner distinct from the manner in which it would affect the public generally. Your selection as the BCC liaison to Head Start does not directly or indirectly affect your position in the School District. Therefore, the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance permits you to continue to serve as the BCC liaison for the Head Start Program and maintain your employment with MDCPS-Lindsey Hopkins Center as a curriculum specialist. In effect, this means you are permitted to participate in and vote on any matters concerning the Head Start Program in your capacity as the program's BCC liaison and as member of the Board of County Commissioners.

If you have any additional questions or wish to discuss, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director

cc: R.A. Cuevas, County Attorney
Gerald Sanchez, Assistant County Attorney



MEMORANDUM
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Commissioner Rebeca Sosa, District 6

TO:	Robert Meyers Executive Director, Commission on Ethics	DATE:	August 2, 2011
FROM:	Rebeca Sosa Commissioner District 6	SUBJECT:	Head Start Meeting 7/14/11

As the Chairwoman of the Miami-Dade County Economic Development and Social Services Committee, and as the Commission liaison to the Head Start Program, I asked Chairman Joe A. Martinez to call for a BCC Special Meeting on Early Head Start/Head Start on Thursday, July 14, 2011. I hope you had the opportunity to watch this meeting. During this meeting, there were several comments made by Commissioner Barbara Jordan regarding my potential conflict of interest with me being employed by Miami-Dade County Schools while at the same time serving as the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Liaison to the Head Start program.

As a result of these comments, I ask you to look at minutes 47, 135:11 and 135:55 of the tape. I formally request that you please issue an opinion as to whether there is any conflict for me to serve as the BCC Liaison for the Head Start Program. As you already know, I am employed by the Miami-Dade County School System as a Curriculum Specialist for the Adult Work Force Program at the MDCPS-Lindsey Hopkins Center. I have no communication or interaction with any of the daytime Head Start-related educational programs provided throughout the school district as part of my formal job responsibilities.

I appreciate your immediate attention and response with this matter.

C.C. R.A. Cuevas, County Attorney
Gerald Sanchez, Assistant County Attorney