



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: April 17, 2025

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

An agreement with Bexar County for harm reduction services.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an agreement with Bexar County for harm reduction services for the City of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) Mental Health & Community Resilience Office and SA Forward Plan, in an amount up to \$100,000.00 for the term beginning upon execution through September 30, 2025. Funding is available from Opioid Settlement Funding.

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager or designee to execute an amendment in the following circumstances: (A) an increase in contract funding in an amount not exceeding (a) twenty-five percent (25%) of the total amount of this contract or (b) \$25,000.00, whichever is lesser amount; provided, however, that the cumulative total of all amendments increasing funding and executed without City Council approval pursuant to this subsection during the term of this contract shall not exceed the foregoing amount; (B) no cost extensions up to two years; (C) budget adjustments authorized by the funding agency so long as the total dollar amount of the budget remains unchanged; (D) modifications to the Scope of Work due to the adjustment described in subsection (A) of this Section or for any other reason, so long as the terms of the amendment are reasonably

within the parameters set forth in the original Scope of Work; and (E) changes in state or federal regulations mandated by the funding agency.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Bexar County and the City of San Antonio both receive opioid settlement funds, passed through from the State of Texas, for participation in settlement agreements with companies for their role in the opioid crisis. The funds will be received over an 18-year span.

The City and Bexar County are using opioid settlement funds collaboratively to reduce rising rates of overdoses in the community. On May 9, 2024, through Ordinance 2024-05-09-0341, City Council authorized the appropriation of Opioid Settlement Funds in an amount up to \$909,000.00 for use by Metro Health for substance use and harm reduction initiatives. More than 30 years of research provides evidence showing comprehensive syringe services programs are safe, effective, and cost saving, do not increase illegal drug use or crime, and play an important role in reducing the transmission of viral hepatitis, HIV and other infection.

The Texas Government Code, § 526.0056, permits Bexar County to fund a syringe services pilot program to prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and other infectious and communicable diseases. The program may include a disease control program that provides for the anonymous exchange of used hypodermic needles and syringes. Through the proposed agreement, Bexar County will administer harm reduction contracts with local agencies. The County will achieve deliverables through monitoring of contracted partners. Deliverables include reducing overdoses, increasing access to harm reduction services and resources, and enhancing community awareness about opioids and harm reduction practices. Additionally, the County will match funds provided by the City to implement these effective harm reduction strategies.

ISSUE:

Metro Health requests City Council authorize the execution of an agreement with Bexar County to provide harm reduction services in the amount of \$100,000.00 for a term beginning upon execution through September 30, 2025. Funding is available from Opioid Settlement Funding.

Bexar County will match funds provided by the City to implement effective harm reduction strategies as indicated by the proposed agreement.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should City Council choose not to approve this ordinance, Metro Health will need to seek an alternate means to support harm reduction services in the community or forgo the opportunity to collaborate with Bexar County to provide comprehensive services and interventions aimed at reducing the negative consequences of substance use while promoting the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Without intervention, the community faces continued increases in overdose deaths, infectious disease transmission, and social inequities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an agreement with Bexar County to provide harm reduction services in an amount of \$100,000.00 for the term beginning upon execution through September 30, 2025. Funding for the agreement is available from Opioid Settlement Funding. There is no fiscal impact to the City's General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval.