



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: March 28, 2024

In Control: Community Health Committee

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A Briefing on the new UT School of Public Health San Antonio with Dean Vasan Ramachandran, MD, FACC, FAHA.

SUMMARY:

The Board of Regents for the University of Texas System has established a new School of Public Health through a joint effort between UT Health San Antonio and UTSA. This forthcoming institution will deliver comprehensive academic programs in public health while serving as a hub for research endeavors addressing community health challenges. Additionally, it will foster and expand collaborations with various stakeholders invested in public health initiatives. In 2024, it is anticipated that approximately 100 new positions will be created to bolster the academic and research endeavors of The University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio. These positions are expected to contribute to research activities amounting to a minimum of \$20 million annually. With a focus on research and community engagement, the School of Public Health aims to fulfill the growing demand for public health professionals in San Antonio and the surrounding region. The UT School of Public Health opens in August 2024 and expects 50 to 75 students to

participate in the program in the first cohort.

UT School of Public Health San Antonio Founding Dean Vasan Ramachandran, MD, FACC, FAHA will visit with the Community Health Committee on March 28th.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

As the Founding Dean of the UT School of Public Health San Antonio, Vasan Ramachandran, MD, FACC, FAHA brings a wealth of experience and expertise in public health and epidemiology. He previously held roles as Chief in the Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology at the Department of Medicine and as Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health.

During his tenure as Principal Investigator of the Framingham Heart Study from 2014 to 2022, the oldest running epidemiological study in the US, he spearheaded groundbreaking research in cardiovascular health. Vasan Ramachandran, MD, FACC, FAHA is also the Principal Investigator of the Risk Underlying Rural Areas Longitudinal (RURAL) Study, one of the youngest cohort studies in the US, which focuses on rural populations in southern Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta. Funded by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), RURAL collaborates with sixteen institutions across the US led by a cross-functional and transdisciplinary team of investigators.

ISSUE:

Metro Health will brief the Community Health Committee about the new UT School of Public Health that will open in August 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.