



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 1

Agenda Date: April 10, 2024

In Control: Select Meeting Type

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and Request for Council Guidance on the Reproductive Justice Fund by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District.

SUMMARY:

Metro Health seeks to inform Council about gaps in reproductive health services and potential solutions and seeks guidance from Council prior to initiating a Request for Proposals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City Council voted on Sept. 14, 2023, to allocate \$500,000 in order to establish a Reproductive Justice Fund (Ordinance 2023-09-14-0623). To date, similar Reproductive Justice Funds have been established in Austin, Harris County, St. Louis, Chicago, Columbus, New York City, Seattle and Portland, as well as in six states (OR, CA, NM, MN, NJ, NY), for purposes ranging from community outreach, to clinical capacity-building for maternal and reproductive health, to abortion access.

Before initiating a Request for Proposals, Metro Health seeks to inform Council about local gaps in reproductive health services and potential solutions. Metro Health seeks clarification from Council about acceptable uses for the fund in accordance with state and federal laws. Staff

proposes a framework that emphasizes prevention strategies, such as insurance and contraception access, and that focuses on addressing health disparities.

Metro Health will return to Council after the RFP is complete for approval of proposed contracts.

ISSUE:

Metro Health seeks Council guidance on acceptable uses for these funds in accordance with the law.

ALTERNATIVES:

Without additional guidance, Metro Health is unable to initiate the Request for Proposals.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff proposes initiating an RFP using a framework that emphasizes prevention strategies, such as insurance and contraception access, and that focuses on the greatest health disparities.