



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: January 27, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

An ordinance approving a renewal and amendment to an agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) on behalf of its Institute of Health Promotion Research (IHPR) for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Healthy Neighborhoods program, to renew the agreement and increase the compensation to a total amount of up to \$115,550.00 for a term ending September 29, 2022.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance approves the execution of a renewal and amendment to an agreement with the UTHSCSA to continue the implementation and management of referrals from University Health System (UHS) clinics to prevention programs within Metro Health including, Diabetes Prevention & Control program, and the San Antonio Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant for a term ending September 29, 2022.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2018, City Council authorized the acceptance of funds from the CDC's REACH grant in an amount of up to \$900,000.00 per year for up to 5 years. The REACH award aims to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among certain racial and ethnic populations.

Through REACH funding, Metro Health proposed to implement culturally tailored interventions to address the preventable behaviors of tobacco use, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity, building on the success of the Healthy Neighborhoods program and Office of Health Equity. A key strategy of the REACH grant is to build and promote bidirectional Community-Clinical Linkages (CCL) between healthcare clinics and community-based health and prevention programs.

IHPR exists to investigate causes and solutions to the inequitable impact of disease among Latinos in South Texas. In 2020, Metro Health contracted with IHPR on a feasibility study for making Community-Clinical Linkages between Metro Health programs (Diabetes Prevention & Asthma) and the Robert B. Green Campus of the University Health System (UHS) and UT Health Physicians. Results of the study lead to the initiation of embedding community referrals into clinical workflow processes. Through this project, IHPR facilitated relationships between Metro Health programs and resident physicians in family medicine clinics. In 2022, IHPR is expected to implement a referral button through its electronic medical record (EMR) system. Metro Health will train clinic providers to initiate referrals, fully linking clients to Metro Health's prevention programs.

Having a deep knowledge of and history with establishing the foundation of the CCL strategy, IHPR is uniquely positioned to move the CCL strategy forward due to existing relationships with clinic providers, their understanding of the significance of EMR systems in healthcare, and their role in promoting community health programs. No other local organization has the full set of knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to meet grant required goals and metrics.

ISSUE:

Metro Health is requesting approval of a renewal and amendment to an agreement with UTHSCSA to continue the implementation and management of referrals from University Health System (UHS) clinics to prevention programs within Metro Health. Approval of the renewal and amendment to the agreement with UTHSCSA will allow Metro Health to continue this project and oversee the successful implementation and maintenance of the functionality of the CCL strategy, linking San Antonio residents to Metro Health's prevention programs.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should the renewal and amendment to the agreement not be approved, Metro Health will be unable to address the implementation of a referral system to link community members to prevention programs within Metro Health and meet grant deliverables.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves the execution of a renewal and amendment to an agreement with UTHSCSA to continue the implementation and management of a referral system for a term ending September 29, 2022. Funding for the agreement is contingent on carryforward funding provided through the CDC's REACH grant budget. There will be no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council approve a renewal and amendment to the agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio on behalf of its Institute of Health Promotion Research to support Metro Health's Healthy Neighborhoods program.