



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 19

Agenda Date: May 12, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Ordinance approving an amendment to an agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) to extend the term through September 30, 2022 to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data to San Antonio Metropolitan Health District at no additional cost.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance approves an amendment to extend an agreement with University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to continue to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data at no additional cost through September 30, 2022.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In April 2021, The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) established Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) capabilities allowing for the expansion of local Public Health Laboratory capacity for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 variants. Ordinance 2021-06-17-0446 approved the initial agreement with UTHSCSA, for a term beginning April 15, 2021, and ending March 30, 2022, in an amount up to \$200,00.00 for Metro Health to receive SARS-CoV-2 variant surveillance data reports for situational awareness and epidemiological purposes. Due to the continued need to identify COVID-19 variants in circulation, Ordinance 2021-11-18-0878,

authorized an amendment to increase compensation in an amount up to \$558,912.00. The data provided through this agreement allows Metro Health to track local prevalence of CDC “Variants of Concern” and “Variants of Interest” such as Delta (AY.100) and Omicron (BA.1, BA1.1, BA2). These variants are of concern/interest due to various attributes, such as increased transmissibility, increased severity, reduced neutralization by convalescent sera, reduced neutralization by monoclonal antibody therapy, and reduced neutralization by post-vaccination sera.

Due to ongoing concerns for COVID-19 variants in circulation, Metro Health requests approval to extend the term of the initial agreement with UTHSCSA to continue to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data, imperative to the COVID-19 pandemic response.

ISSUE:

Metro Health requests City Council approve an amendment to an agreement with UTHSCSA for the continuation of SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data to track local prevalence of CDC “Variants of Concern” and “Variants of Interest” at no additional cost through September 30, 2022.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should the amendment not be approved, Metro Health will not receive data critical to informing the community of the local prevalence of CDC “Variants of Concern” and “Variants of Interest”. Metro Health would need to identify other professionals in the community and other methods of tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants to inform the community, for situational awareness and epidemiological purpose, as part of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves an amendment to an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to continue to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data at no additional cost through September 30, 2022. There will be no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council approve an amendment to extend the agreement with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to provide SARS-CoV-2 genetic sequencing data for a term ending September 30, 2022.