



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 23

Agenda Date: August 18, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Agreement with the Department of State Health Services for Metro Health's Informatics Team to facilitate cancer registry data sharing

SUMMARY:

An ordinance approving an agreement with the Department of State Health Services to provide the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Informatics Team with data from the state's cancer registry for statistical analysis of regional disparities and in support of SA Forward implementation at no cost, for a term ending August 31, 2026.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health's) Informatics Team is responsible for tracking and disseminating data, evidence, and research on top causes of morbidity and mortality such as cancer.

Cancer is consistently the 2nd leading cause of death in Bexar County, and year after year, Non-Hispanic Black communities in Bexar County have much higher rates of cancer mortality compared to any other race/ethnic group. This is a significant challenge that we need to tackle in our effort to achieve health equity. To better lead cancer prevention and reduce mortality from

cancer, it is imperative that local health departments are equipped with timely, granular cancer incidence data to better understand and address disparities in the development, prognosis, and treatment outcomes of cancer within their communities.

Metro Health routinely works with and receives population-level data from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), including vital statistics data and behavioral risk factor surveillance (BRFSS) data. Over the course of 2021, Metro Health additionally collaborated with the DSHS' Texas Cancer Registry to form a state-local partnership and data sharing agreement for transfer of disaggregated Bexar County cancer incidence data to Metro Health. According to TCR, such a data-centered partnership between TCR and a local health department will serve as a model example for future collaborations with other local health departments across Texas.

The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) is a statewide, population-based registry that serves as the foundation for measuring the cancer burden in Texas. The TCR is one of the largest cancer registries in the United States and is funded by both the National Cancer Institute's Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Program and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR).

The data received will equip Metro Health with the ability to conduct detailed analysis on cancer incidence and diagnosis by race/ethnicity, sex/gender, and census tract, which will allow us to better track local cancer trends in a timely manner and help inform cancer prevention, screening, and treatment. This accomplishment for Metro Health is a significant milestone achieved under its SA Forward Plan, particularly for the priority areas of "Technology & Infrastructure" (Action: Expand Public Health Informatics across the department), "Health Equity & Social Justice" (Action: Implement systematic collection and dissemination of equity-driven data as part of the Equity Action Plan), and "Access to Care" (Action: Conduct a comprehensive Access to Care Assessment that will tackle emerging issues related to COVID-19 and healthcare, such as cancer diagnosed at later stages).

ISSUE:

Metro Health is requesting approval of an agreement with the Department of State Health Services to share data from the state's cancer registry at no cost for a term ending August 31, 2026. The sharing of this data from the Texas Cancer Registry will allow Metro Health to analyze data to identify regional disparities among cancer mortality rates in the community.

ALTERNATIVES:

If this agreement is not authorized, Metro Health will not be able to process, utilize, and disseminate timely, disaggregated cancer incidence data pertaining to Bexar County, which will hamper our efforts to identify and address social, racial/ethnic, and regional disparities in cancer occurrence within our Bexar County community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves an agreement with the Department of State Health Services, at no cost for a term ending August 31, 2026. There is no fiscal impact associated with the agreement. There will be no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the ordinance to execute an agreement with the Department of State Health Services, with a term ending August 31, 2026.