



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 20

Agenda Date: September 15, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Authorizing the assignment of Public Health Associates for the 2022 CDC Public Health Associate Program

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance authorizes the assignment of two Public Health Associates in the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) for a two-year period beginning mid-October 2022 and authorizes the Director to execute all necessary documents to successfully effectuate the assignments. These positions will be 100% funded by the CDC and will have no impact to the City's General Fund.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Metro Health is committed to developing the future public health workforce. This year will mark our 13-year partnership with the Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. The mission of PHAP is to "train and provide experiential learning to early career professionals who contribute to the public health workforce." PHAP's comprehensive curriculum focuses on developing associates' proficiencies in key public health areas via formal instruction

and mentoring by the CDC and the host site, as well as on-the-job training at the host site. After completing the two-year CDC-funded assignment, associates are qualified to apply for public health positions at local, state, and national offices.

The Public Health Associate Program was founded in 2007 as a pilot program to support the CDC's frontline public health focus and to meet the need for a continual source of field-tested, experienced, and dedicated public health professionals. To date, PHAP has placed more than 1,650 Public Health Associates in public health agencies and nongovernmental organizations across 49 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

PHAP is geared toward recent baccalaureate and master's level graduates who are interested in a career in public health. Assigned associates are civil service personnel hired by the CDC to serve under an excepted service appointment not-to-exceed two years. Assignments are individually tailored to meet local needs in the delivery of public health services such as case investigation, disease surveillance, health promotion, community outreach, and public health policy and accreditation.

Metro Health has been selected as a host site for 13 years – every year the program has been available in Texas since 2008; the program was not funded in 2009. Over these years the department has hosted 24 associates, many of whom continued working or studying in public health or studying in other health-related fields after completing their PHAP service. Currently, three associates are working at Metro Health.

Most recently, on February 18, 2022, Metro Health submitted four applications to become a PHAP host. On July 29, 2022, and August 1, 2022, Metro Health received approval to host two CDC PHAPs within Metro Health's SA Kids BREATHE Program and the Performance Improvement Team.

Metro Health benefits from being a host site. The bright, intelligent associates are an added resource to Metro Health. They come to San Antonio from many different states, bringing with them different perspectives and experiences that enhance services to the community. During this program, the CDC provides them with professional training that augments their knowledge and skills beyond their local training. Most associates serve in public health positions after PHAP. As an example, 80% of associates who graduated in 2021 accepted jobs in public health following their time in PHAP.

The CDC PHAP program provides a salary paid directly to the associate while they complete their two-year field assignments at the health agency. Benefits, including mileage, health insurance, vacation, and sick leave, are also paid by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Metro Health will use existing resources to provide the required office space, equipment and associated project-based support, supervisory and mentoring time, and assessment of the assignee's professional development. This Ordinance will allow two Public Health Associates to work in the following Metro Health program areas: SA Kids BREATHE and the Performance Improvement Team.

ISSUE:

Metro Health is requesting that City Council authorize the assignment of two Public Health Associates in the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) for a two-year period beginning October 2022 and authorize the Director to execute all necessary documents.

ALTERNATIVES:

If the Public Health Associate assignments are not authorized, Metro Health will not be eligible for the services of trained CDC Public Health Associates to assist in key services within the department at no cost to the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Ordinance authorizes the assignment of two Public Health Associates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Associate Program, in the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District for a two-year period beginning October 2022 and allows for the execution of necessary documents. The Public Health Associates will be 100% funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and will have no impact to the City's General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends authorizing the assignment of two CDC Public Health Associates in Metro Health for a two-year period beginning October 2022.