



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 14

Agenda Date: September 1, 2022

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Claude Jacob

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Approving a renewal and amendment to two agreements with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio related to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's REACH Healthy Neighborhoods Program.

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance approves an amendment to an agreement with the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health) on behalf of its Institute of Health Promotion Research (IHPR) to extend the term and add an additional \$40,929.00 to continue the implementation and management of referral services for a total compensation not to exceed \$156,479.00. This Ordinance also approves a renewal and amendment to an agreement with UT Health to continue the implementation of tobacco prevention and cessation strategies and amending the provision related to community health worker training, at no additional cost, for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's (Metro Health) REACH Healthy Neighborhoods Program, funded by the CDC REACH Healthy Neighborhoods grant, both with terms ending September 29, 2023.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2018, City Council authorized the acceptance of funds from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant in

an amount of up to \$900,000.00 per year for up to 5 years. The REACH grant aims to improve health, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities among certain racial and ethnic populations. Through the REACH grant, 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. The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio's (UT Health) Institute of Health Promotion and Research (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 University Health (UH) and UT Health. Results of the study led 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. Through an amendment in FY 2023, IHPR is expected to transition sustainability of the referral process to Metro Health, fully linking UH 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.

The renewal and amendment with UT Health seeks to continue to address a barrier to integrate and implement the UT Health electronic medical record referral system for tobacco use into clinical workflows. In 2019, Metro Health contracted with UT Health to implement a tobacco-use screening and referral policy within one of the Robert B. Green clinics. The goal of this activity was to ensure that 100% of patients were screened for tobacco use and referred to a quitline or behavioral specialist if the patient indicated tobacco use and a desire to quit. Amending a deliverable in FY 2023 will require UT Health to provide in-person training to REACH Healthy Neighborhoods Program staff and address challenges faced in preceding years to provide effective community health worker training.

ISSUE:

Metro Health is requesting approval of an amendment to an agreement with UT Health to add an additional \$40,929.00 to continue the implementation and management of referrals from UH clinics to prevention programs within Metro Health. Metro Health also requests approval of a renewal and amendment to an agreement with UT Health to continue the implementation of tobacco prevention and cessation strategies and amending the provision related to community health worker training in the scope of work, at no additional cost, both with terms ending September 29, 2023.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should these agreements not be approved, Metro Health will be unable to move forward with the REACH Healthy Neighborhoods Program work plan as funded by the CDC; thus, failing to meet program deliverables as well as failing to improve health, prevent chronic diseases and reduce health disparities among racial and ethnic populations in San Antonio.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance approves an amendment to an agreement with the UT Health to extend the term and add an additional \$40,929.00, for a total compensation not to exceed \$156,479.00. Funding is budgeted in the CDC-funded REACH Healthy Neighborhoods grant. This ordinance also approves a renewal and amendment to an agreement with UT Health to continue the implementation of tobacco prevention and cessation strategies, amending the provision related to community health worker training, at no additional cost, for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Healthy Neighborhoods Program, each with terms ending September 29, 2023. There will be no impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council approve agreements with The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio to support Metro Health's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Healthy Neighborhoods Program.