City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:13-703

Agenda Item Number: 18.

Agenda Date: 10/17/2013

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Thomas Schlenker

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

Authorizing an Agreement with STRAC for Visual Dx Software License

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes an agreement between Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC) and the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) to provide funding in an amount not to exceed $40,000.00 in support of a multiagency (Metro Health, Office of Emergency Management, STRAC, and Texas Department of State Health Services) funded license for Visual Dx Software from Logical Images, Inc. for Bexar County. Ten-thousand dollars of funding for this agreement is available and budgeted within Metro Health's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) FY 2014 grant and $30,000.00 from the Office of Emergency Management's (OEM) Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) FY 2011 grant.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In April of 2007, Metro Health initiated a piloted program for Visual Dx and currently maintains the cost of the program. Visual Dx is a diagnostic and training tool that allows physicians to more rapidly diagnose rare diseases or agents associated with bioterrorism and pandemics. In 2008, STRAC and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Region 8 became partners in a multi-agency implementation plan to equip hospitals with the Visual Dx software throughout the region. In 2011, the program was expanded to all Bexar County physicians through the Bexar County Medical Society (BCMS).

This contract with STRAC will maintain the Visual Dx Software across DSHS Region 8. As part of our Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant deliverables, Metro Health is required to train physicians and

medical responders on how to rapidly identify and diagnose patients that present themselves to hospital emergency departments and physician offices.

Visual Dx is versatile in that it will train physicians as necessary and can be used in real-time situations to make a rapid diagnosis. Although funding from the Metro Health PHEP grant and the OEM MMRS grant will go specifically towards the cost for a Bexar County license, our partnership with STRAC, who is sharing a portion of the financial cost, will expand the coverage of this service across the South Central Texas Region. Maintaining this license will provide the web-based Visual Dx Software to all Bexar County hospitals and physicians via BCMS.

ISSUE:

Metro Health is requesting City Council authorization of an agreement with STRAC for Metro Health and OEM to provide funding in an amount not to exceed $40,000.00 in support of a multiagency (Metro Health, OEM, STRAC, and DSHS) funded license for Visual Dx Software from Logical Images that will allow Metro Health's PHEP program to comply with grant deliverables to train physicians and medical responders on how to rapidly identify and diagnose patients that present themselves to hospital emergency departments and physician offices.

ALTERNATIVES:

If this contract is not authorized, Metro Health's PHEP program will be required to identify an alternative method to provide multiple training sessions to over 6,500 Bexar County physicians in order to fulfill specific grant deliverables outlined in Metro Health's PHEP grant. This would cause a delay in the process to bring this educational component to the community and would leave many of our medical professionals unable to identify symptoms related to bioterrorism; thus slowing community wide detection and response time.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for this agreement with STRAC is available and budgeted within Metro Health's FY 2014 Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant for $10,000 and OEM's FY 2011 MMRS grant for $30,000 and will have no impact to the general fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of an Ordinance authorizing an agreement with the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council to provide funding in an amount not to exceed $40,000.00 in support of a multiagency (Metro Health, OEM, STRAC, and DSHS) funded license for Visual Dx Software from Logical Images, Inc. for Bexar County.