



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number: 19-6359

Agenda Item Number: 35.

Agenda Date: 9/12/2019

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jennifer Herriott, MPH

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Ratifying an agreement with the Texas Department of State Health Services for the provision of medications for the treatment of TB and STDs at no cost.

SUMMARY:

An ordinance ratifying an agreement with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to allow the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) to receive medications for the treatment of Tuberculosis (TB) and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) for a period beginning August 15, 2019 and ending August 31, 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Metro Health's TB and STD programs are both communicable disease prevention and intervention programs that utilize treatment medications supplied by DSHS for uninsured/underinsured patients. This arrangement has been in place for many years with DSHS at no cost to the local programs. The DSHS now requires an agreement for local health departments to receive free TB and STD treatment medications.

Each medication made available from DSHS is provided to patients seen at our STD/HIV and TB clinics at no cost to the patient. The medications are never sold to the patients and any billing associated with the patient visit pertains to the administration of the medication, not the medication itself. Approximately 15,000 patients are seen at the STD/HIV Clinic each year and a large percentage of the patients receive treatment either at the

point of their initial visit as a result of being symptomatic, or when they return to the clinic after receiving positive test results.

Likewise, the TB Program handles all TB cases in Bexar County and will treat on average over 120 active and suspected cases of TB on an annual basis. Staff identified and evaluated nearly 900 contacts to smear positive TB cases in 2018 with the majority of those being treated with medications. TB is unlike any other disease and treatment will require multiple daily medications for a minimum of 6 months to over a year, depending on the drug susceptibility of the TB organism. Several of the medications to treat TB disease are not routinely obtained in regular pharmacies.

ISSUE:

Metro Health requests City Council ratify an agreement with DSHS to receive free medications to treat STD and TB disease and infections. The base agreement and incorporated attachments, including a data use agreement, are vitally important for protecting the community at large. The agreement will ensure the STD and TB prevention and control programs receive necessary medication to treat infectious diseases, stop the spread of diseases, and further protect Bexar County residents.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should the contract not be approved, Metro Health will not be able to move forward with receiving free medications that has been in place for many years with DSHS to treat uninsured/underinsured patients. This would lead to substantial increases in infectious disease rates within the community. Metro Health would have to purchase the medications with general funds or find alternative sources of funding or medications.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This Ordinance ratifies an agreement with the Texas Department of State Health Services to allow Metro Health to receive medications for the treatment of Tuberculosis and Sexually Transmitted Diseases at no cost for a period beginning August 15, 2019 and ending August 31, 2021. There are no monies attached to this agreement. The value of the medications will be recorded as in-kind. There will be no additional impact to the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends City Council ratify the agreement with the DSHS to allow Metro Health to receive medications for the TB and STD clinics for a period beginning August 15, 2019 and ending August 31, 2021.