



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:19-2877

Agenda Item Number: 18.

Agenda Date: 4/18/2019

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Health

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jennifer Herriott, MPH

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Authorizing the acceptance of funds and execution of an agreement with Harvard University's School of Public Health for the CHOICES Community of Practice Beta-Testing beginning April 1, 2019 and ending July 31, 2019.

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes an agreement with the Harvard University's School of Public Health for the CHOICES Community of Practice Beta-Testing project and authorization to accept compensation in the amount of \$12,000.00 for a term beginning April 1, 2019 and ending July 31, 2019.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Childhood obesity is a complex health issue affecting San Antonio/Bexar County across socioeconomic and demographic boundaries. The causes are similar to those of adult obesity, including dietary patterns, physical inactivity, health disparities, educational attainment, food marketing and promotion, and intergenerational poverty. Higher rates of childhood obesity in our central urban core are interconnected to the socioeconomic status and environmental conditions of these neighborhoods.

From July 2017 to June 2018, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) participated in the CHOICES project at the Harvard Prevention Research Center on Nutrition and Physical Activity at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health (HPRC). CHOICES is Learning Collaborative Partnership opportunity to support states, cities, and counties in preventing childhood obesity by building local capacity among decision-makers to choose and implement cost-effective strategies. Only four local public health agencies were awarded

this opportunity.

A new opportunity was made available to Metro Health by The Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health, to collaborate on a partnership to focus on beta-testing the platforms, resources and tools to support a community of practice aimed at identifying and understanding best-value for money approaches to reducing childhood obesity. From April 2019 to July 2019, Metro Health will participate in a series of virtual workshops and activities to provide feedback on materials, resources, and tools to address childhood obesity.

ISSUE:

Metro Health is requesting City Council authorization to execute an agreement with the Harvard University School of Public Health for participation in the Community of Practice Beta-Testing and accept compensation in the amount of \$12,000.00. Metro Health staff has been invited to beta-test the structure and key components to further engage health agencies in a community of practice. Staff would participate in a series of virtual workshops and activities to provide feedback on materials, resources, and tools for reducing childhood obesity.

ALTERNATIVES:

This partnership will assist Metro Health in ensuring our resources are directed towards the most cost-effective interventions with the best value-added strategies. Without this resource, Metro Health will have to develop the cost effectiveness and cultural fit of proposed childhood obesity prevention strategies without the collaboration, input and guidance of Harvard University, and the other program collaborators. Furthermore, if this ordinance is not authorized, the City will have to forego the proposed compensation for participation in the project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

An ordinance authorizing the execution of an agreement with Harvard University School of Public Health for the CHOICES Community of Practice Beta-Testing project related to the prevention of childhood obesity and authorizing the acceptance of compensation for a term beginning April 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019. Metro Health will receive \$12,000.00 for participation in the project. There is no impact on the General Fund.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends authorization to execute an agreement with Harvard University School of Public Health and authorization to accept compensation in the amount of \$12,000.00 for a term beginning April 1, 2019.