



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Adrienne Sturup *Adrienne Sturup*

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard

DATE: October 21, 2022

SUBJECT: Response to Reproductive Health (Resolution No. 20220721-003)

This memorandum serves as a response to Resolution No. [20220721-003](#). On July 21, 2022, Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to explore the City's ability to conduct a public education program on long-term birth control, including but not limited to vasectomies, which should include community health partners; report back to Council with a plan for executing this public education program; and ensure that health insurance offered to City employees and their spouses cover low-cost birth control, including but not limited to vasectomies.

City of Austin's Health Insurance for City Employees

The City of Austin currently covers all FDA-approved contraceptives under its medical plans. This includes a wide range of oral contraceptives, IUDs, patches, diaphragms, female condoms, vasectomies, and emergency contraceptives.

Contraceptive Drugs Covered by all City Medical Plans:

- 89 contraceptive drugs are covered under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) with no copay, coinsurance, or deductible. This list contains all classes of contraceptives; see the attached ACA Contraceptive Drug List.
- 13 contraceptive drugs are covered at Tier 1 with a \$10 copay.
- 100 contraceptive drugs are covered at Tier 2 with a \$30 - \$60 copay depending on the drug's price.

Vasectomies and termination of pregnancy (abortion) are covered based on the service provider. They are subject to copay, coinsurance, and deductible based on selected plans.

Funded Services – Social Services Agreement

Austin Public Health (APH) is contracting with Jane's Due Process to provide sexual health and reproductive education and wellness navigation services. Services include education about and access to birth control; case management; transportation, support to persons navigating pregnancy; and reproductive healthcare referrals.

Direct Education Programs/Services

Below is a brief description of APH's programs/services, including education on reproductive health and birth control options.

Austin Healthy Adolescent (AHA) Program

The Austin Healthy Adolescent (AHA) Program engages, empowers, and collaborates with communities across Travis County and Del Valle. It supports youth in taking ownership of their health and working to advance the health of their communities.

Peer-2-Peer (P2P) Educator Development

AHA has implemented an innovative, evidence-based, peer-led health project for Travis County youth ages 14-18. The goal of this intervention is for all participants to increase their knowledge, skills, and attitudes about healthy relationships while becoming empowered to share this information with their peers.

Communities & School Sexual Health Facilitation

AHA implements a comprehensive, evidence-based sexual health curriculum for 6th-12th grade youth. Middle school youth participate in a positive youth development curriculum that focuses on healthy relationships, life planning, and making good choices and utilizes an anti-bullying focus. High school youth participate in a comprehensive, evidence-based sexual health curriculum that uses an abstinence-plus curriculum. Lessons relate to healthy relationships, self-identify, safe practices, abstaining from sexual relationships, and healthy decision-making.

Del Valle Healthy Adolescent Project (DVHAP)

The Del Valle Healthy Adolescent Project (DVHAP) is a three-component intervention developed by Austin Public Health's Austin Healthy Adolescent (AHA) Program and the DVHAP partner organizations. The organizations that make up the Core DVHAP partners include AHA, The University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health (UTHealth), SAFE Alliance (SAFE), Integral Care, El Buen Samaritano, Nicole Treviño Consulting (NTC), and the Travis County Adolescent Health (TCAH) Collaborative. The project goals include improving the optimal health of adolescents in the Del Valle Independent School District (DVISD) and reducing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections through (1) effective sexual health education, (2) youth, family, and community engagement in systems improvement and (3) improving the support services system, which includes expanding support services for DVISD youth.

LGBTQ+ Youth Support Group

AHA will provide ongoing support groups for LGBTQ+ teens in the Austin and Del Valle area, designed to uplift the mental, social, physical, and emotional health of LGBTQ+ teens through youth-led discussions and activities. Additional services include free hygiene supplies, office workspace (including internet

access and printing), and educational materials. For any youth that needs other services, AHA utilizes its partnership with Kind Clinic. This LGBT-serving clinic helps to provide resources, medical care, and guidance that youth can receive free of charge.

Services available during/after pregnancy:

AHA utilizes key program partnerships to help support any youth requiring support during and after a planned or unplanned pregnancy. Resources provided by AHA include referrals to Integral Care for counseling services for the youth and family and to El Buen Samaritano, a Title X clinic, for access to birth control, life-planning, and family support services. AHA also works with the People's Clinic, which supports current or future parents in gaining resources and receiving medical care.

Young parent services:

AHA engages young parents through the Fatherhood Support Group, hosted once every three months. The support groups are led by health educators and provide young fathers with resources, tools, and knowledge that help them along their path as parents. Young fathers receive advice from other fathers on difficult situations such as "fathering during a pandemic," "managing stress and being a father," and "life-planning and family planning with your partner." Participants are also given incentives for participation that include gift cards and supplies for children (wipes, diapers, formula, etc.) and receive dinner and childcare, if necessary, during support groups.

WIC Program

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for pregnant women, infants, and children under age 5. Participants can take advantage of healthy food benefits, nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, and information regarding other social services available, including family planning. Clients can also receive lactation support at Mom's Place, a lactation support center. Postpartum mothers needing assistance with breastfeeding have access to licensed lactation care professionals (IBCLCs) and Registered Nurses as part of their WIC benefits.

Maternal Infant Outreach Program

Maternal Infant Outreach Program (MIOP) provides peer support for pregnant or parenting Black women. The program aims to address and eliminate racial disparities in birth outcomes and improve maternal and infant health.

MIOP's mission to create a village of healthy black moms, healthy black babies, and healthy black families, is supported by a program focused on at-term births, healthy infant weight, breastfeeding, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) screening, and postpartum health visits. Discussions regarding family planning also occur with a focus on planning appropriately and using various types of birth control options, including long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARC), vasectomies, abstinence, and others.

Family Connects Program

The Family Connects program is a voluntary, evidence-based, short-term nurse home visiting program offered to every family with newborn infants, regardless of income or socio-economic status. During the home visit, the nurses assess the family's unique needs. They provide expert advice about maternal anxiety, postpartum depression, lactation, childcare, and family planning. The RN conducts a preset screening to determine what supportive services would benefit the family and what services are necessary before the 6-week postpartum visit with the pediatrician. The RN will make referrals or provide additional support services at the family's request during the visit.

Public Education Program/Awareness Campaign

APH does not have funding to support a full-scale public awareness campaign on long-term birth control and family planning options. APH will include social media messages from trusted sources on APH's social media accounts and share them with our local community health partners.

Cc Spencer Cronk, City Manager
 Veronica Briseño, Assistant City Manager
 Joya Hayes, Director, Human Resources Department