



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Adrienne Sturup, Director, Austin Public Health *Adrienne Sturup*

THROUGH: Stephanie Hayden-Howard, LMSW, Assistant City Manager

DATE: March 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Intersex Children Public Education Campaign Staff Response

On October 21, 2021, The City Council passed Resolution No. 20211021-028 condemning non-consensual and medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children and directing city staff to explore methods to implement a public education campaign to provide accurate information to doctors and parents regarding intersex healthcare. This is an addendum to the memorandum submitted on February 1, 2022. ([Previous memo is linked here](#))

Austin Public Health (APH) staff continued to research best practices from various reliable sources, including national and international peer-review journals, articles in the Travis County Medical Journal, reputable clinical website searches, and meeting with other health departments with similar resolutions, and medical professionals.

To date, APH staff have already met with a pediatric urologist, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDHMH), intersex advocacy groups, and the youth sex education team. In addition, APH staff participated in an intersex public education workgroup meeting led and facilitated by NYCDHMH during which we learned more about the complexity and intricacies associated with an intersex education campaign.

As part of the research and planning for meeting with NYCDHMH, APH became aware of the statutory differences between the health departments. NYCDHMH is able to provide a wide variety of health care services while APH is only able to provide public health services. This distinction is important because it limits the services and education that APH is able to provide to the community.

APH is committed to protecting health, promoting well-being, and preventing diseases and recognizes that disorders of sex development are complex conditions that require careful and thoughtful discussions between individuals and their medical providers. After researching and exploring options, APH believes that to minimize stigma and educate parents regarding intersex healthcare, a more targeted campaign led by medical providers would be a more effective approach.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact my office at (512)972-5010 or email me at Adrienne.Sturup@austintexasgov.

cc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager