



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2847, **Agenda Item #:** 62.

9/21/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of Texas at Austin to provide training for clinicians to improve uptake of evidence-based practices in opioid stewardship, opioid use disorder, and opioid harm reduction, in the amount of \$250,000 for the term of September 30, 2023 through September 29, 2024, with one 12-month renewal option in the amount of \$250,000, for total agreement amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Lead Department

Austin Public Health.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$250,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Austin Public Health Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund. Funding for the remaining terms is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Prior Council Action:

June 16, 2022 - Council approved Resolution No. 20220616-53 declaring a public health crisis in the City related to drug overdoses and directing the City Manager to address the drug overdose crisis by investing in harm reduction strategies utilizing opioid settlement payments and coordinating with the Public Health Commission, Council, and Travis County Commissioners Court, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Austin Public Health has been awarded funding from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a Congressional Directive Spending Project entitled "Austin Travis County Substance Use and Misuse Expanded Programming for Increased Community Awareness and Capacity to Prevent Substance Use Disorder Morbidity and Mortality."

This project will support the implementation of public health prevention and education strategies to reduce deaths from opioid overdose. The strategy uses data to educate the community on a multicomponent system, including: 1) substance use/misuse and the associated risk of drug use; 2) high-risk populations within the community; 3) substance use prevention programs at partner agencies that will support educational outreach, provide case coordination, and the assessment for at-risk populations; 4) linkage of clients with appropriate prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery programs; 5) expansion of Narcan Risk Reduction education and training of first responders (EMS, Fire, Police, public health), health care professionals, Community Health Workers, people who use drugs, city and transit employees, and other community members; 6) public education campaign; and 7) and healthcare provider education.

Through this interlocal agreement, the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy will conduct an academic detailing intervention for primary care, emergency department, general hospital and surgical settings in Austin to improve uptake of evidence-based practices in opioid stewardship, opioid use disorder, and opioid harm reduction among clinicians. This intervention will improve prescriber's care for people who use opioids through the provision of free continuing medical education (or CME) training presentations for clinicians in healthcare institutions and in professional settings. In addition, trained academic detailers will provide in-person visits to healthcare sites to provide personalized coaching to support the implementation of evidence-based practices.

Performance Measures

- 800 or more clinicians will receive foundational group trainings at the institutions where they practice.
- 50 or more clinicians will receive one or more personalized coaching sessions to support practice implementation.
- Pre-/post-training assessments will demonstrate increased knowledge and improved attitudes related to the provision of evidence-based care for people who use opioids.
- Follow-up surveys and interviews will demonstrate behavior modification (i.e., tangible changes in practice) with greater implementation of evidence-based care strategies.