



## BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

### Austin Travis County Public Health Commission

#### Recommendation Number: (20240403-007): Additional Immunization Funding

WHEREAS, the Austin/Travis County Public Health Commission ("ATC PHC") serves as an advisory body to the City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court concerning public health programs, projects, services, public health and human services needs, and approaches for improvement.; exploring the best/evidence-based public health practices for areas that need improvement and provide recommendations; providing an annual formal recommendation on the improvement of the overall public health programs, projects, regulations, and services within the governing entities in the city and the county; working to inform strategies that address health disparities that impact health outcomes for underserved populations; and gathering input from the community on budget and programming recommendations to share with policymakers and health agencies annually; and

WHEREAS, persons aged 65 and older represent the fastest-growing age group in Austin, expanding from 55,695 (7.0% of 2010 population) to 91,733 (9.5% of 2020 population), and growing at a rate of 64.7%; and

WHEREAS, Austin Public Health Immunizations Unit aims to provide a vaccine safety net for vulnerable Travis County Residents; and

WHEREAS, Adults - in particular older adults, as noted the fastest growing age group in Austin, with the Asian older population exhibiting the fastest growth--have limited options for free and low-cost vaccinations in Austin/Travis County; and

WHEREAS, the Adult Safety Net (ASN) program removed the shingles vaccine (Shingrix) in September of 2021 due to lack of funds; and

WHEREAS, the ASN program removed the pneumococcal pneumonia vaccine (PCV20) in August of 2023 due to lack of funds; and

WHEREAS, both of these vaccines are primarily recommended for older adults, with Shingrix being recommended for adults over 50 only; and

WHEREAS, the APH Immunizations Unit purchased and administered over 900 shingles vaccines at a cost of approximately \$180,000 including 300 shingles vaccines purchased so far in FY24 at a cost of \$59,360; and

WHEREAS, since August 2023 the APH Immunizations Unit purchased and administered over 170 doses of pneumococcal vaccine for a total of \$44,465; and

WHEREAS, the above purchases of these two vaccines have all been administered, the APH Immunizations Unit no longer has quantities available as a safety net for vulnerable residents; and

WHEREAS, after the above dosages were administered, there's an additional estimated unmet need of 3,500 Shingrix doses annually, representing 1,750 clients annually (Shingrix is a two-dose series); and

WHEREAS, after the above dosages were administered, there's an additional estimated unmet need of 2,200 Pneumococcal vaccine doses annual, representing 2,200 clients annually; and

WHEREAS, pricing for Shingrix vaccine is \$1,862.19 for 10 doses as of 3/4/24; and

WHEREAS, pricing for the PCV20 vaccine is \$2,437.18 for 10 doses as of 3/4/24.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Joint Inclusion Committee encourages the Austin City Council to allocate \$308,050 for the purchase of 1,000 additional Shingrix shingles (at two doses per person) and 500 additional PCV20 vaccines to incrementally close the gap to help support at risk older adults in the Austin area.

Date of Approval: April 3, 2024

Record of the vote: 7-0, Commissioner Crookham absent

Attest:  \_\_\_\_\_

Larry Wallace Jr., Chair