

## LRB-FISCAL REVIEW SECTION ANALYSIS

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 13, 2001

ITEM 4, FILE # 011078  
MARK A. RAMION

File # 011078 is a resolution relative to application, acceptance and funding of the Bioterrorism Grant.

### **Background**

1. This resolution authorizes the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) to apply for, accept and fund the Bioterrorism Grant project from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.
2. This is a grant continuation to encompass the period of September 1, 2001 through August 31, 2002.
3. This grant period will cover year three of a five-year grant.

### **Discussion**

1. Grant funds have been used to develop components of a system that prepares Milwaukee to better respond to threats or acts of terrorism that involve a biologic agent. This system includes conducting staff and community emergency planning and training activities, the enhancement of disease surveillance and reporting systems within MHD and improving MHD laboratory analytical capabilities.
2. Under the auspices of this grant, MHD has developed a written bioterrorism response plan in conjunction with Milwaukee County government.
3. MHD has constructed a "hot-line" and a computer web-based communication network in order to respond to inquiries and threats related to bioterrorism and the suspicion of biologic agents.
4. MHD has collaborated with multiple agencies, both government and private, on the federal, state and local levels, in the development of efforts to respond to bioterrorism.
5. Procedures and protocols involving the public health risk assessment of bioterrorism have been implemented. Since October 2001, MHD has responded to 280 incidents of anthrax-related perceived threats including the testing of 50-75 suspicious samples by the MHD laboratory.
6. MHD has coordinated efforts with the State of Wisconsin to ensure that the city and state plans for addressing bioterrorism are cohesive, comparable and integral.

7. Grant funding for this next year will be used to enhance existing emergency management, communicable disease, epidemiology and laboratory programs within MHD.

**Fiscal Impact**

1. The total amount of this grant is \$131,385, entirely from the grantor. No city matching funds are required.
2. This grant funds two MHD positions, one Microbiologist III (.7 FTE) (SG 642) and one Epidemiologist (SG 09).

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