

LRB-RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MAY 13, 2010

ITEM 5, FILE # 091630

File # 091630 is a resolution relative to entry into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to the deployment of medical countermeasures and supplies to safeguard the FBI's emergency response staff.

Background

1. The United States Department of Justice and public health organizations including the United States Centers for Disease Control and many state and local public health agencies have participated in discussions and activities to better cooperate in responding to potential acts of bio-terrorism and other major environmental and disease challenges. These efforts have been prompted in part by the Anthrax attack in the fall of 2001, but also by recent concerns that FBI emergency responders did not have early access to the 2009 H1N1 vaccine.
2. The federal government does not have a mechanism to provide early or priority access to vaccines, inoculations and other protective medical measures for FBI emergency responders. The Justice Department has urged local FBI offices to find ways to cooperate with state and local health authorities to assure that its emergency responders are protected.
3. The proposed MOU, one of the first of its kind in the nation, builds upon relationships already established among the Justice Department, the CDC and the MHD which have involved nationwide efforts to develop a stronger program now referred to as "forensic epidemiology." This program includes the work of local laboratories in identifying disease and also the efforts necessary to explore patterns of disease in a given community.

Discussion

1. The MOU has no fiscal impact on the Milwaukee City Budget. Activities are supported by current state and federal funding. The vaccines, inoculations and other medicines are supplied through the federal government's National Strategic Stockpile (NSS).
2. The MHD already provides vaccines and other important medicines on a priority basis to Milwaukee Police, Firefighters and first responders as reflected in recent H1N1 protocols.
3. The MOU provides specifically that it is not a commitment of funds by either party. Each party is to bear its own costs and the MOU notes that neither party waives its right to sovereign immunity.

4. The MOU draft attached to the file has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's Office and the United States Department of Justice.

Fiscal Impact

1. The resolution in File # 091630 has no fiscal impact on the tax levy.

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