



Health Department

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Members of Finance and Personnel Committee
Common Council-City Clerk
City Hall, Room 205

Dear Committee Members:

Per your request at last week's Health Department budget hearing, I believe adding the following to the 2004 MHD budget would best contribute to meeting our health outcomes goals and meeting the community demand for preventive health services:

- 1) Office Assistant III (Pay Range 425) and Environmental Health Specialist II (Pay Range 541) in the Consumer Environmental Health Division

The restoration of these positions has three rationales. First, these positions could help facilitate process changes related to the implementation of the CHILI inspection system. In addition, these staff could work with our Tobacco Control program and establish a system for issuing citations for illegal sales of tobacco to minors. As you may know, our grant-funded youth "sting" operation is finding that nearly 35% of tobacco vendors offer to sell to minors, and little change has been observed through entirely voluntary efforts. Citations could produce as much as \$90,000 per year; although it is hoped that active enforcement over time would gradually reduce the numbers of citations required. Finally, an unanticipated reduction in grant funding of a vacant position faces us with the potential layoff of an office assistant. MHD had anticipated using this grant funded vacancy for placement of an experienced office assistant filling a position scheduled to be eliminated in the 2004 MHD Budget.

- 2) Healthcare Outreach Coordinator (Salary Grade 007) in the Maternal and Child Health Division

This position would work to assure that physicians, clinics, hospitals, managed care organizations and other service providers (such as Prenatal Care Coordination agencies) adopt MHD recommendations to reduce infant mortality and meet other public health goals. A recent Outcomes-based Strategic Planning session identified a department-wide need to make healthcare providers more active partners in our programs. For example, many providers offer pregnancy tests but do not follow-up with prompt preconceptional counseling or immediate referral for prenatal care or other services. An experienced public health nurse would provide professional-to-professional contact with the goal of improving the preventive effectiveness of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on healthcare in our community each year.

- 3) Community Capacitation Coordinator (Salary Grade 007) in the Home Environmental Health Division.

This position would apply the effective lessons learned from our Community Capacitation Projects to create more neighborhood-based prevention advocacy (primarily through community-based organizations). This individual will also be responsible for establishing strong systems for recruiting and deploying lay volunteers who seek to improve community health. Similar to the Healthcare Outreach Coordinator, the department-wide need for this function was identified in our Outcomes-based Strategic Planning in September.

- 4) Systems Analyst (Salary Grade 006) in the Administration Division.

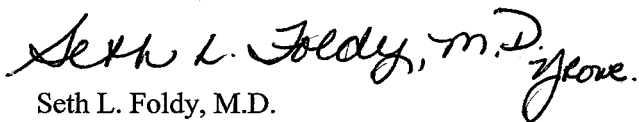
This position would design application systems and oversee or perform programming functions in support of MHD's outcomes goals and grant requirements. The complexities associated with increased data collection, analysis and reporting requirements for grants management, as well as O&M funded programs, have placed a stronger emphasis on the need to develop such applications for compliance purposes. This position would also increase our ability to use technology to measure and assess overall MHD's productivity and efficiencies.

- 5) Public Health Nurse (Fund 2 Auxiliary PHN Positions, Pay Range 666) in the Maternal and Child Health Division

The MHD remains confident that the proposed service delivery model that includes the creation of two Social Worker positions to supplement nursing practice will add great value to the department. However, it is important to recognize that funding of two Auxiliary Public Health Nurses can provide added capacity to combat infant mortality, low immunization rates and prevent and/or respond to disease outbreaks. Given that MHD's creative recruitment strategies have generated qualified applicants over the last six months, we are confident that if funded, these additional positions can be filled within a reasonable timeframe.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide this list to you in the event that funding could be restored for these purposes in 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



Seth L. Foldy, M.D.
Commissioner

C: DOA-Budget Office
City Clerk-LRB-Fiscal Section
MHD Sr. Mgmt. Staff