

LRB-RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 29, 2009

ITEM 13, FILE # 081328

File #081328 is a resolution relative to application, acceptance and funding of the Creating Local Community Information Networks Grant from the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO).

Background

1. Hospital Emergency Departments (ED) in the Milwaukee region participate in the Wisconsin Health Information Exchange (WHIE), sponsored by the National Institute for Health Informatics Institute (NIHI). The principal investigator in the initial development of the WHIE was Dr. Seth Foldy, former Commissioner of the Milwaukee Health Department. The WHIE system of linked ED information went live in 2008.
2. NACCHO is a national professional association for local health officials. Among other priorities, NACCHO promotes public health infrastructure development and emergency preparedness.
3. The proposed grant would support an analysis and evaluation of the WHIE for its capacity to provide health officials and hospitals with early detection of infectious and communicable diseases. This, in turn, is expected to result in more efficient and effective epidemiological evaluation and health response.

Discussion

1. This is a new grant proposal intended to support the preparation of a report to the NACCHO related to the utility of the Wisconsin Health Information Exchange in communicable disease surveillance, and developing a Communicable Disease Management module to improve timeliness and reduce the workload of communicable disease reporting and epidemiologic follow-up.
2. The period of grant operation is January 7, 2009 to May 31, 2009. The resolution in File # 081328 accepts funding of \$35,000. Funding for this grant is entirely grantor share. The budget for this 20 week period is:

Line Description	Grantor Share
Personnel Costs	\$ 21,204
Fringe Benefits	8,694
General Supplies	102
Contractual Services	5,000
Total	\$ 35,000

3. The grant supports 3 existing positions: 1 Telecommunications Analyst-Assoc. (0.15 FTE), 1 Public Health Research & Policy Director (0.03 FTE) and 1 Infectious Disease Epidemiologist (0.10 FTE).

4. Contractual services are for assistance from the National Institute for Medical Informatics.
5. The resolution in File #081328 authorizes the City Comptroller to establish the necessary Special Revenue Fund-Grant and Aid Project Grant levels and budget against these amounts in a manner consistent with the grant agreement.
6. The resolution further authorizes the Health Department, consistent with the terms of the grant, to: expend from these budgeted amounts, enter into subcontracts and leases, and to expend funds for training and out-of-town travel of departmental staff from the grant funds in 2009.

Fiscal Impact

1. The resolution in file 081328 accepts \$35,000 non O&M funding, entirely grantor share. There is no impact on the tax levy.

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