

AGENDA



Thursday, August 30, 2007

**Community Care Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 12

Subject: Authorize execution of the Fifth Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the City and the Travis County Healthcare District (District) to allow for increased payments to the City to fund additional services for the E-Merge Program in the amount of \$81,649 (\$16,329.80 per month for May 2007 through September 2007). The E-Merge Program integrates behavioral health counselors and psychiatrists into clinic medical teams to better address behavioral health issues affecting patients' physical health.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding sufficient to satisfy all City obligations under the interlocal agreement will be available in the net transfer of funds from the Travis County Healthcare District to the City of Austin in Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Phil DeFalco, Financial Manager/972-4022; Debra Hedges, CAO/972-4045

Prior Council Action: 09/13/04 Council authorized negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the District.

08/04/05 Council approved negotiation and execution of the first amendment to the interlocal agreement with the District.

09/12/05 Council authorized negotiation and execution of a renewal of and second amendment to the interlocal agreement with the District.

04/06/06 Council authorized negotiation and execution of the third amendment to the interlocal agreement with the District

09/28/06 Council authorized negotiation and execution of a renewal and fourth amendment to the interlocal agreement with the District.

On May 15, 2004, the voters of Travis County approved the creation of the Travis County Hospital District, now called the Travis County Healthcare District (District). The governing statute, Chapter 281 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, required the transfer of certain property and operations of the City and County to the District, so that the powers of the District could be implemented. The District assumed responsibility for funding and providing medical and hospital care for indigent and needy persons within Travis County. The interlocal agreement between the City and the District provides that the City's Community Care Services Department operate the Community Health Center Clinics (FQHCs), as well as provide the management and administration of the Medical Assistance Programs and the administration of certain community health care contracts. The District funds the budget of the Community Care Services Department.

The interlocal agreement has been renewed and/or amended four times to adjust the monthly payments made by the District or to address additional services.

This item requests negotiation and execution of the fifth amendment to the interlocal agreement between the City and the District to amend Service Operating Payments to the City for the period May 1 through September 30, 2007. The amendment is needed so that the District can pay \$81,649 to the City as increased reimbursement for additional services on the E-Merge Program. The E-Merge Program is a clinic-based mental/behavioral health care model that integrates behavioral health counselors (BHCs) and psychiatrists into the Community Care Services Department's medical teams at each clinic site. The BHCs and/or psychiatrists assist with medication management and treatment planning, more effectively treating patients whose behavioral health problems affect their physical health.