Thursday, December 11, 2008

Community Care Services RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 12

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a three-month professional services agreement among the City, the Travis County Healthcare District, and Emergency Service Physicians, P.L.L.C., Austin, TX to provide physician services at the Red River Community Health Center, in an amount not to exceed \$269,892.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$269,892 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Operating Budget of the Community Care Services Department.

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

For More Information: Phil DeFalco, Financial Manager/972-4022; David Vliet, CEO/972-4050.

This action will authorize the City, through the Community Care Services Department (CCSD), to negotiate and enter into a contract with Emergency Service Physicians, P.L.L.C. (ESP) and the Travis County Healthcare District (District) for physician services. Under this agreement, ESP will provide physician staffing at CCSD's new Red River Community Health Center (Clinic), which will be located in space currently leased by the District from HealthSouth. The ESP physicians will provide medical services to patients from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. seven days per week.

The City will be obligated to purchase these services from December 1, 2008, through February 28, 2009. Effective March 1, 2009, the District will be solely responsible for funding and managing this agreement for the remainder of a two-year term. This three-party arrangement is needed because the Clinic is expected to open in December, and the City and District anticipate that responsibility for managing and staffing the Clinic will transfer from the City to the District on March 1, 2009.

Initially ESP will provide only physician staffing at the Clinic. As patient volume increases the parties will mutually agree upon any changes to staffing levels.

CCSD will provide and maintain needed space, equipment, supplies, furniture and other items needed for operation of the Clinic. City will provide all required non-physician personnel, and a CCSD physician shall serve as medical director of the Clinic. In addition, CCSD shall be responsible for billing and collection for services performed by ESP's providers.