

**Health and Human Services
CITY OF AUSTIN**

AGENDA
DATE: 4/20/2006

#8

**RECOMMENDATION FOR
COUNCIL ACTION**

Subject: Approve designation of ADOLFO VALADEZ, M.D., M. P.H., as Health Authority and designation of LINDA WILLIAMS DOOLEY, M.D. and EDWARD MACLEOD RACHT, M.D., each individually, as an Alternate Health Authority for Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department effective February 1, 2006.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Approved Operating Budget of the Health and Human Services Department.

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

Requesting Department: HHSD

For More Information: David Lurie, Director, 972-5010; Dr. Adolfo Valadez, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director, 972-5408; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator

Prior Council Action:

Boards and Commission Action:

Designation Valadez + Dooley and Racht

Background

David Lurie, Director, Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (HHSD), designated Adolfo Valadez, M.D., M.P.H., as Health Authority effective February 1, 2004 for the 2-year term ending January 31, 2006. Dr. Valadez has served as HHSD Medical Director since March 17, 2003. This action is a reappointment of Dr. Valadez for an additional 2-year term as Health Authority effective February 1, 2006 through January 31, 2008.

Under state law (Health and Safety Code Section 121.029), the Health Authority may delegate any power or duty imposed on the health authority to a properly qualified physician to act while the health authority is absent or incapacitated. The physician designated by the health authority must:

- Meet license and residence requirements;
- Be appointed as a designee in the same manner as the Health Authority; and
- File the Oath of Office, executed by a duly appointed Notary Public, with the Texas Department of Health

The delegation is effective during the term of the Health Authority making the delegation; the Health Authority is responsible for the acts of the physician to whom the powers have been delegated; and the entity that appoints the Health Authority must have procedures in place to prevent duplication of authority and provide notice to the Department when authority is transferred. HHSD has had a "Delegation of Back-Up Health Authority" in effect since July 1, 2000.

Eligible Appointees

Dr. Valadez received his M.D. from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine. He holds a Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. Since March, 2003, he has served as Medical Director for the Department, as an Alternate Health Authority designated by Acting Health Authority, Dr. Edward J. Sherwood from April, 2003, until his appointment as Health Authority in March of 2004.

With the approval of the HHSD Director, Dr. Valadez has requested that Dr. Linda Williams Dooley and Dr. Edward MacLeod Racht, be designated, each individually, as an Alternate Health Authority. Dr. Dooley received her M.D. from Texas Tech University School of Medicine and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. She joined HHSD on July 1, 1983, as Ambulatory Medicine Clinician and Attending at South Austin Clinic and Central Texas Medical Foundation. She is currently the Medical Director for the Department's TB Elimination Program, serves as Medical Director of the STD Clinic, and as a physician at the David Powell Clinic. Dr. Dooley meets all of the requirements under Section 121.029 of the Health and Safety Code.

Dr. Racht received his M.D. degree from Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, in 1984. His medical education included an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Richmond, VA. He holds certification from the National Board of Medical Examiners (1985), is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine (1988) and numerous certifications in Cardiac Life Support, Trauma Life Support, Pediatric Life Support and Trauma Life Support. Since 1995, Dr. Racht has served as Medical Director of the City of Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services Clinical Practice. Dr. Racht meets all of the requirements under Section 121.029 of the Health and Safety Code.

Attached is a description of duties.

Requested Action

Council is requested to approve designation of ADOLFO VALADEZ, M.D., M.P.H., as Health Authority and designation of LINDA WILLIAMS DOOLEY, M.D. and EDWARD MACLEOD RACHT, M.D., each individually, as an Alternate Health Authority for Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department effective February 1, 2006.

Scope Of Work

Health Authority

Under the direction of, and as assigned by, the Director of the City of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department:

- **Performs the duties of local Health Authority as described in State statute (i.e., quarantine, required reporting of infectious diseases, birth and death records), City ordinance, and County regulations, including those duties necessary to implement and enforce the law to protect the public health.**
- **Establishes, maintains, and enforces quarantine in Austin/Travis County.**
- **Provides medical leadership in responding to disease outbreaks.**
- **Advises local physicians concerning communicable disease and other public health concerns, including bioterrorism and other emergencies.**
- **Communicates to the media during a public health emergency as assigned.**
- **Conducts appeal hearings for Animal Services and Environmental Health licensing and regulation program.**
- **Serves on Department team for emergency operations.**

Scope Of Work

Alternate Health Authority

Under the direction of, and as assigned by, the Director of the City of Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, and by delegation of the Health Authority, only in the absence or event of incapacitation of the duly designated and approved Health Authority:

- Performs the duties of local Health Authority as described in State statute (i.e., quarantine, required reporting of infectious diseases, birth and death records), City ordinance, and County regulations, including those duties necessary to implement and enforce the law to protect the public health.
- Establishes, maintains, and enforces quarantine in Austin/Travis County.
- Provides medical leadership in responding to disease outbreaks.
- Advises local physicians concerning communicable disease and other public health concerns, including bioterrorism and other emergencies.
- Communicates to the media during a public health emergency as assigned.
- Conducts appeal hearings for Animal Services and Environmental Health licensing and regulation program.
- Serves on Department team for emergency operations.