Thursday, February 25, 2010

Health and Human Services RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 30

Subject: Authorize execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT to provide certain health screenings and health education to students at Pearce Middle School and LBJ High School for a seven-month term beginning March, 1, 2010, with three 12-month renewal options.

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

For More Information: Shannon Jones, Assistant Director, 972-5410; Joe Barnes, Community Health Initiative Unit Supervisor, 972-5471; Linda Terry, Agenda Coordinator, 972-5023.

The Health and Human Services Department's (HHSD) Community Health Initiative Unit offers several programs designed to conduct prevention and screening services to underserved populations and/or underserved areas of the City of Austin. In two of these programs, the African American Quality of Life and Health Connection programs, nurses and support staff work from mobile vans to conduct basic health screenings and provide prevention education in underserved areas.

This agreement is in response to the need resulting from a pilot initiative that offered access to basic screening and prevention education to LBJ High School students during the 2008-2009 academic year. Through the new agreement, staff will provide services at LBJ High School one Wednesday per month and at Pearce Middle School one Thursday each month. The initial term will be seven months beginning March 1, 2010 and the RCA authorizes up to three 12-month renewal terms. Initiation of the new program of services was delayed with the change in AISD Administration and issues at Pearce Middle School. No new staff is required to meet the terms of the interlocal agreement.

The project will raise awareness of chronic illnesses and prevention techniques and provide certain basic health screenings to students. Students who are under the age of 18 will be required to provide a consent form signed by a parent, and AISD is responsible for coordinating the consent forms and notifying students and their parents of the availability of services.

PERFORMANCE

Related Departmental Goal: Promote a healthy community by preventing chronic and communicable diseases and promoting improvements in social/economic/environmental factors that will result in an improved overall health status and a reduction of health disparities.

Over course of the school year, the objectives of the project are to:

Raise awareness of health status for at least 90% of all youth receiving services.

Provide blood pressure screening to 250 students at LBJ High School and 200 students at Pearce Middle School.

Provide blood sugar screenings to 250 students at LBJ High School and 200 students at Pearce Middle School.