



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 15, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Fred Medrano, Director, Department of Health & Human Services

Subject: Measure A Funds: School Nurse Project

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept Measure A funds from Alameda County in the amount of \$225,000 to develop a system for families, teachers, and school staff to refer elementary school-aged children and their families to Public Health Nursing; to execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments; and authorizing the implementation of the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the funding.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

On April 5, 2005, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the Measure A Public Health Prevention Initiative allocating \$3,000,000 of the unallocated Measure A funds to public health prevention. The BOS action awards 7.5% of the funding to the City of Berkeley to support the School Nurse Project. The Measure A Initiative is approved through FY 2007; therefore, funding is expected through FY 2007, and possibly longer pending BOS approval. No matching funds are required for this funding, and program space needs have been met with the relocation of the Public Health Division to 1947 Center Street. Funds will be deposited into the Alameda County School Nurse Fund, revenue code 165-4564-331-4081. The revenue agreement has been entered into the City contract database, and assigned Contract Management System No. XJSDZ.

The Measure A Initiative requires that funds be distributed according to existing administrative protocols or systems to minimize administrative costs and duplicative processes. Therefore, the School Nurse Project will be integrated into Berkeley Public Health Nurses case management functions. The new staff hired will include a 0.50 FTE Health Services Program Specialist, 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurse, and .50 FTE Mental Health Clinician. Staff will develop and implement a program that provides case management and resources to children and families in elementary schools. Funding reserves through billing for eligible Targeted Case Management

services will offset related costs not covered by Measure A funds, and possibly support program expansion. In the event the Measure A Public Health Prevention Initiative is not reauthorized and Berkeley does not receive its 7.5% of funding, the positions will be eliminated. Otherwise, the Health Services Program Specialist, Public Health Nurse, and Mental Health Clinician may fill a vacancy in accordance with seniority and union contract.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Children growing up face an increasingly complex world today in terms of exposure to violence, erosion of family systems and social supports, degradation of our environment, the onslaught of popular culture, and increasing numbers of new health threats in the form of emerging infectious diseases and chronic diseases such as asthma. Our school system struggles to keep up, but here in Berkeley, we lack school nurses. Principals, teachers and secretaries face management of complex and difficult diseases, and medical conditions such as insulin dependent diabetes, asthma, and even cancer chemotherapy while children are in school.

For children, three indicators of need stand out: asthma rates, immunization rates, and physical fitness. Asthma hospitalization rates for Berkeley children are 2.5 times higher than for all California children. Over half of Berkeley residents hospitalized for asthma are children below the age of 15, and African-American children have hospitalization rates about 4 times higher than the general population. As for immunization rates, African-American and Latino children have rates hovering around 60-64% whereas the national goal is 90% up-to-date by age 2. The number of children with health alert files in our school system is 1,791 (19.8% of all students enrolled) with diseases and conditions such as asthma, life-threatening allergies, seizures, cerebral palsy, diabetes, heart disease, and sickle cell disease. Finally, California Physical Fitness data for schools revealed that 39% of children in Berkeley schools are physically unfit and 23.5% are overweight, both serious predictors of suffering lifetime chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.

The goals of the School Nurse Project are to:

- ◆ Increase immunization rates
- ◆ Reduce rates of hospitalization for diseases such as asthma
- ◆ Reduce absenteeism
- ◆ Reduce overweight/obesity
- ◆ Increase physical fitness

BACKGROUND

Berkeley is a community seeking to confront vast differences in the health and prosperity of its youth and families. Data has consistently shown that minority and low-income youth perform poorer in school, suffer from preventable health problems, lack sufficient developmental supports, and experience cultural misrepresentation far more often than other Berkeley residents. At a Berkeley Youth and Education Summit in March 29, 2003, a work group convened to address how youth and family support programs could better serve the community. In particular, the work group recognized the urgency of reducing disparities in health, education, and

emotional well-being. They identified a lack of coordination and cooperation among existing agencies as obstacles to quality youth and family support services.

As a result, a network of providers, called the Berkeley Integrated Resources Initiative (BIRI), came together to create a planning and implementation process to address the community's concerns. The School Nurse Project will coordinate and work collaboratively with the BIRI to implement a coordinated, multi-agency service delivery model that brings City of Berkeley Public Health Nurses to students and families in the Berkeley Unified School District elementary schools.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

A core school-nursing program sited within the Public Health Division links the assets of public health with the public education system. The primary assets of public health have to do with prevention—preventing disease and disability before they happen, allowing our children to thrive. It is more important than ever to focus on prevention, recognizing that with the growing epidemic of obesity in our society, there are not enough dollars or clinical resources to treat the chronic diseases of tomorrow. The School Nurse Project gives us the tools to provide public health prevention efforts to be focused on our most vulnerable children.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Alternative actions would require Alameda County Board of Supervisors approval. No other alternative is being considered.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. –N.S.

MEASURE A FUNDS FOR SCHOOL NURSE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved Measure A Public Health Prevention Initiative funds for the City of Berkeley to support the School Nurse Project; and

WHEREAS, asthma hospitalization rates for Berkeley children are 2.5 times higher than for all California children and over half of Berkeley residents hospitalized for asthma are children below the age of 15; and

WHEREAS, asthma hospitalization rates for African-American children are approximately four times higher than the general population; and

WHEREAS, immunization rates for African-American and Latino are far below the national average; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20% of school age children in Berkeley have an health alert in their school file for a medical condition; and

WHEREAS, approximately 39% of children in Berkeley schools are physically unfit and 23% are overweight; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the School Nurse Project are to increase immunization rates, reduce rates of hospitalization for diseases such as asthma, reduce absenteeism, reduce overweight/obesity, and increase physical fitness; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley should seek outside funding wherever possible to improve the health of our youth.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is hereby authorized to accept Measure A funds from Alameda County in the amount of \$225,000 to develop a system for families, teachers, and school staff to refer elementary school-aged children and their families to Public Health Nursing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute the resultant revenue agreements and any amendments (Contract Management System No. XJSDZ), and to appropriate funding for related expenses, subject to securing the funds. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.