

SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Health

THROUGH Terry M. Brechtel, City Manager

COPIES TO: Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant to the City Manager; City Attorney's Office; Finance Department; Office of Management and Budget; Project; File

SUBJECT: FORM AGREEMENT FOR NURSING SERVICES

DATE: February 6, 2003

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes amending Ordinance 68403, passed and approved November 29, 1988, to include a form agreement for nursing services between the City, through the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD), and licensed nurses.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND

On November 29, 1988, City Council approved form agreements to facilitate the use of independent outside physicians and dentists by the SAMHD. This was needed because public health and safety situations arise from time to time within the community requiring the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to exceed normal daily operations. The flooding of October 1998 and July 2002 are examples of events that required additional staffing to meet the immediate needs of the community. Bioterrorism threats require a new sense of preparedness in manpower and ability to quickly respond. The introduction of new vaccines to protect residents against serious disease such as the new requirement for mandatory vaccination against hepatitis A for all children entering school in 2003 produces a surge in demand for services that exceeds the capacity of public health clinic authorized manpower. In addition, short-term projects require the professional healthcare services for a specified period of time. Having a mechanism to establish a "ready" workforce to augment the full-time staff is necessary in the current public health environment.

Currently, this need also applies to licensed, professional nurses who are in great demand in this community. To counter this trend, SAMHD will contract with independent nurses when turnover rates

deplete the number of staff nurses needed to provide consistent clinical services. This strategy mirrors the strategy of other local agencies that depend on nurses for professional quality health care services.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance follows past City policy of outsourcing professional services to augment and extend the capacities of staff.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

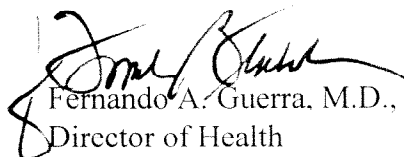
Acceptance of this ordinance will allow SAMHD to contract for professional services more efficiently, but will not impact overall budget allocations for the activities affected. No transfer of funds between line items is anticipated and all disbursements will be made through funds already allocated to the Fees for Professional Contractors budget line item in the General Fund and various grants.


COORDINATION

The City Attorney's Office and the Office of Management and Budget, Risk Management Division have reviewed and approved the service agreement contracts.

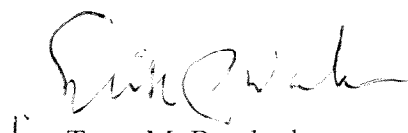
SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

Independent outside physicians, dentists and nurses will be required to complete a City of San Antonio Discretionary Contracts Disclosure Form prior to execution of any agreement with the City of San Antonio.


Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health


Frances A. Gonzalez
Assistant to the City Manager

APPROVED:


Terry M. Brechtel
City Manager