

W8C1

AGENDA COVER MEMO



AGENDA DATE: May 11, 2005
TO: Board of County Commissioners
DEPT: Health & Human Services
PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh, Director
AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER _____ / IN THE MATTER OF UPDATING THE BOARD AND TRANSFERRING \$26,374 FROM RURAL CLINIC CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT WITHIN GENERAL EXPENSE TO H&HS GENERAL FUND AS APPROVED IN BUDGET ADOPTION FOR EXPENSES RELATED TO OPERATION, CLOSURE, AND PLANNING FOR CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL LANE COUNTY

I. MOTION

Order _____ / in the Matter of updating the Board and transferring \$26,374 from rural clinic contingency fund to H&HS general fund as approved in budget adoption for expenses related to operation, closure, and planning for continuation of public health services in rural Lane County.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

During the FY 04/05 budget process Public Health requested to close all three rural branch offices by June 30, 2004 due to lack of funding. At that time, efforts were being made to work with existing health service providers within the community as well as potential providers interested in providing satellite services at rural sites. The Board directed that Public Health continue to work beyond June 30, 2004, as needed, in order to continue their efforts in closing the three branch offices.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background

During the FY 04/05 budget process, \$408,000 was set aside as a County Special Contingency Project to cover the cost for Public Health to continue to staff both the Oakridge and Cottage Grove clinics until other alternatives could be identified and put in place.

B. Analysis

During July 2004 to the present, the following mitigation work has been accomplished in closing the three Public Health branch offices (Cottage Grove, Florence, Oakridge).

The **Cottage Grove** office closed in August 2004. For the South Lane area, three meetings were held with representatives of Parent Partnership. The South Lane School District has agreed to provide their health clinic for the site of a delegate community clinic for immunizations if providers are available from the community. The school nurse has worked with this model and is committed to vaccine management and reporting as required by contract. For family planning services, Planned Parenthood opened an Express Clinic in early September, initially holding clinics at the same site and later moved to a different facility (presently at 1450 Birch). Annual exams are done in the Eugene office. Planned Parenthood is open in Cottage Grove every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. with a registered nurse and family planning assistant present. Client numbers are increasing as the community becomes more aware of the services available. This arrangement provides for a more stable service delivery, since Public Health has not had adequate staffing to provide this service consistently.

For Women, Infants, Children (WIC) services in South Lane, arrangements were made to provide WIC services using space in the Cottage Grove Family Center (Department of Human Services building). Staff are going to this site two times per month to provide WIC services. A waiting list is maintained for South Lane clients, who generally experience a two to four week wait for WIC appointments.

The **Florence** office closed in May 2004. For immunization services, Health Associates of Peace Harbor was certified as a Delegate Agency of Lane County Public Health as of July 1, 2004. This has proved to be a positive change for the Florence community. Since there have been several months under this change, an assessment of reports from the statewide immunization data system (ALERT), monthly vaccine reports and the public health branch (2003) monthly vaccine reports was done. The conclusions from reviewing these documents is that Health Associates has increased the number of immunizations given in September, October and November 2004 over the same months in 2003 by 103. Health Associates has also been able to increase the range of clients they serve for immunizations. As a Vaccine for Children (VFC) provider until September 2004, they served clients with medical cards, no insurance, and those who are American Indian. Since September 2004, the clients' service codes include those designated as critical care access, co-pay unaffordable, and adults that have no insurance or co-pay unaffordable. In addition, the school district nurse interviewed says her clients have been able to access immunization services from Health Associates with less difficulty than in the past. She encourages clients to call and request "state supplied vaccine" so they are more likely to be able to have just an immunization appointment and to indicate that they may be unable to pay.

In September 2004, Planned Parenthood of Southwest Oregon opened an Express Clinic to provide refill appointments for clients with contraceptive needs. Annual exams are done once a year in their Eugene office. Planned Parenthood is renting space in the Department of Human Services building on north Highway 101. They are open two days per week, Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The office is staffed by a registered nurse and family planning assistant. They are seeing a steady increase in number of clients served as the community becomes aware of their services.

In regards to WIC services, with the closing of the Florence branch office in May, several community organizations offered free space for WIC services if we could send staff. An arrangement was made with the Florence Nazarene Church to use space for a WIC clinic once each month. Although Florence service days have been maintained at a consistent level over the past year, WIC clients consistently experience a wait period of at least four (and sometimes eight) weeks for services.

For **East Lane County**, during the fall of 2004, staff met with medical providers in Oakridge to discuss provision of immunization and family planning services. Presently, one physician's office is providing immunizations as a delegate agency for Public Health. Lakeside Clinic in Dexter continues to provide immunizations as a delegate agency and family planning services under the Family Planning Expansion Project (FPEP).

In regards to WIC services in East Lane, a very small number of clients continue to request appointments in Oakridge, as they are unable to come to Eugene for WIC services. Staff have continued to provide Oakridge WIC clinics once every two months to accommodate those requests. The plan has been to eliminate Oakridge WIC clinics, or at least decrease to once every three months, if the space remains available. The program has continued to respond to requests for service, although it is not clear that this can be continued long term.

Continuing WIC clinics in the rural communities has, in light of decreased staffing this year, put more strain on the WIC Program's ability to maintain caseload. The WIC Program is required to maintain at least 97% of the state-assigned caseload level or face a loss of funds. The average caseload at this point in the fiscal year is 96.8%. In part, this has been due to vacant positions that have now been filled, and in part due to decreased efficiency in maintaining services in the outlying areas.

In summary, the \$26,374 amount requested was expended for existing staff to continue to provide immunization and family planning services and to develop and implement mitigation plans for the period from July 1, 200~~5~~ to November 1, 2004. The expenses include 304 clinic and 435 leadership staff hours, as well as materials & services.

July 1, 2004

Immunization services total \$13,837, which is made up of \$1,656 clinic staff salary, \$839 benefits, \$7,531 in leadership staff salary, \$2,783 in benefits, and \$1,028 materials & services. Not included were expenses for \$3,000 leadership staff time, which was paid by a grant from the state to assist with three delegate agency start-ups.

Family planning services total \$12,537, which is made up of \$6,495 clinic staff salary, \$3,154 benefits, \$1,784 for leadership staff salary, \$832 in benefits, and \$272 in materials & services.

C. Alternative/Options

1. To approve the proposed transfer of \$26,374
2. To not approve the proposed transfer of \$26,374

D. Recommendation

It is recommended the Board approve the transfer in the amount of \$26,374.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION / TIMING

Transfer of funds would be completed within FY 04/05.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION AND ORDER:) IN THE MATTER OF UPDATING THE BOARD AND
) TRANSFERRING \$26,374 FROM RURAL CLINIC CONTINGENCY
) ACCOUNT WITHIN GENERAL EXPENSE TO H&HS GENERAL
) FUND AS APPROVED IN BUDGET ADOPTION FOR EXPENSES
) RELATED TO OPERATION, CLOSURE, AND PLANNING FOR
) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL
) LANE COUNTY

WHEREAS, Lane County Public Health has continued to incur expenses beyond June 30, 2005 to staff both the Cottage Grove and Oakridge clinics; and

WHEREAS, Public Health leadership staff have spent additional hours working with health providers to set-up alternatives for rural sites; and

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners agrees to the transfer of \$26,374 from Rural Clinic Contingency Account within General Expense to H&HS General Fund in FY 04/05.

DATED this _____ day of May 2005.

Anna Morrison, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 5/11/05 lane county

Shaidlaw
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL