



City Council Report

Date: May 7, 2018
To: City Council
Through: John Pombier, Assistant City Manager
From: Mary Cameli, Fire Chief
Cori Hayes, Assistant Chief
Subject: IGA with AZDHS for Immunization
Citywide project

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to enter into a five-year intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the Mesa Fire and Medical Department (MFMD) and Arizona Department of Health Services (AZDHS). Under the agreement, AZDHS will continue to reimburse MFMD \$25/child or adult to provide immunizations. AZDHS will determine the maximum annual amount each year according to their budget and will notify MFMD via the purchase order. The current reimburse maximum is \$10,000/year but is subject to change based upon their budget.

Background

MFMD, in partnership with AZDHS, has provided immunizations to the children of Mesa and surrounding areas for approximately twenty years. Maintenance and continuation of the program is grant dependent and the State of Arizona is one of the primary funding sources. Funds received are used to purchase supplies and equipment, provide training and cover overtime for those giving the vaccine and for data entry. Most of the vaccine is provided, at no cost, through the State Vaccine for Children program, part of a federal program through the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The MFMD immunization program also privately purchases flu vaccine for uninsured adults and small amounts of other childhood vaccinations to administer in the school setting for those children who are ineligible for the federal vaccine. All vaccines are given free of charge.

MFMD utilizes multiple venues to provide vaccinations. The first is a free public clinic held the second Wednesday of each month at Superstition Springs Mall from 5 PM to 7 PM. It is one of the few sites open after 5 PM, which provides working parents an opportunity to vaccinate their children without missing work. The program is advertised at state, county, and school sites throughout the county, which generates some clients from all over the valley. However, most of the children served are from surrounding Mesa neighborhoods.

The second venue is through a partnership with Mesa Public Schools (MPS). Approximately 6000 students receive vaccines within forty different school locations throughout the City during a nine-month school year.

Lastly, MFMD utilizes health fairs put on by various community groups throughout the City of Mesa to provide additional opportunities for children and adults to receive vaccinations. These events are held at various locations throughout the year and provide vaccinations for children and adults at no cost.

Discussion

Immunizations are vital to a child's health and are required by state law for school attendance. Without current immunizations a child may be excluded from school, thereby interrupting the educational process of that child. In addition, changes in mandatory vaccines for school attendance have increased dramatically over the last several years. New requirements stretch the public health department's ability to meet the needs.

The primary advantage to enter into this agreement is that larger numbers of students and adults will be immunized. Immunity keeps them healthy and indirectly helps maintain the health of infants and the elderly population, who are the most susceptible to the serious consequences of vaccine preventable diseases. It also allows opportunities for our department to provide mass immunization clinics on a smaller scale to better prepare our providers for pandemic influenza or other biological incident responses.

Alternatives

Decline the agreement.

Fiscal Impact

There is no negative fiscal impact for the City of Mesa since the program will be discontinued without funds. The positive impact has been outlined above.