

**Office of Border Public Health (OBPH)
Workplan**

REQUESTING AGENCY/PROGRAM

Hidalgo Reynosa Binational Health Council

TIMELINE

September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024

KEY PERSONNEL

- HIDAREY Hidalgo Reynosa Binational Health Council
- Hidalgo Health Department – will provide staff to attend and participate
- Secretariat of Health of Tamaulipas, Health Jurisdiction No. IV - will provide some of the presenters and staff.
- Department of State Health Services-Region 11, Office of Border Public Health - will provide staff to participate in the meetings and send announcements of meetings and Vector Control Action Day event.
- DSHS Preparedness Program - will provide some of the presenters and staff.
- CDC - will provide some of the presenters and staff.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

Binational Health Councils (known commonly as the COBINAS) Binational Health Councils for U.S. - México border sister-cities were established during the XXI U.S. Mexico Border Health Association meeting in Nogales, Arizona in 1963. The initial purpose of the councils was to provide a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities. As the councils have matured, their purpose has evolved to include examining health needs, problems, and available programs with particular attention and concern to the Council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border.

Project Goals and Objectives

Goal

To provide a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities, examining health needs, problems, and available programs with particular attention and concern to the council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border

Objectives

- To strengthen communication and binational border collaboration between the HIDAREY Hidalgo Reynosa Binational Health Council
- Provide Vector control and emerging disease and emergency information to the community.
- Establish a Border and Surveillance Team (BEST Team).

Border Epidemiology and Surveillance Team (BEST) Project Overview

The purpose of the *BEST* workgroup is to develop a joint effort to strengthen the Epi/Surveillance

capacity by identifying issues, interests, and challenges on the sister cities on both sides of the border. Activities that may be included in this project will be writing or aiding in disaster plans for regional responses for multiple communicable diseases. This project would review disease conditions, transmission and the potential for outbreaks and determine trigger points for response activity along the border and with sister cities. There is an immense need to integrate a binational component and it would best to have the fellow assist in the integration and completion of these activities. This program can help to review binational outbreak guidelines and create reference guides for distribution to local stakeholders, regional local health departments and local healthcare providers. The CSTE fellow will acquire great experience in Binational epidemiological programs and issues that are unique to Region 11.

Mission

The mission of the BEST is to utilize a multi-agency partnership to assess, analyze and facilitate public health surveillance activities and interventions in a binational setting for the purpose of improving the health status of border communities through identification, communication, and response to issues of public health significance.

Goals of BEST

- To clarify the roles of each team member to optimize surveillance activity when an event occurs.
- To decrease fragmentation of existing surveillance systems and increase knowledge of present surveillance systems to maximize limited resources.
- To provide an opportunity for bilateral exchange and interaction in public health and science.
- To clarify the roles of each team member to optimize surveillance activity when an event occurs.
- Increase border surveillance along region 11
- Acquire accurate infectious disease incidence rates
- Create a strong network of reporting Sites

Potential projects:

- Chikungunya / Dengue / West Nile / Zika Surveillance
- Vector surveillance
- ILA
- Or Any Emerging diseases

Proposed Work Plan

To have four Hidalgo-Reynosa BHC meetings during the FY24 and to have a *Binational/Public Health Education/Promotion Event* each fiscal year.

HIDAREY BHC provides a vehicle for the promotion of unity and friendship between the health officials of neighboring cities, examining health needs, problems, and available programs with particular attention and concern to the Council's geographical area, and to consider how its members can promote joint actions in common benefit of the population of both sides of the border. During the meetings, members present updates on emerging issues, and presentation by subject matter experts on public health topics affecting the population of both sides of the border.

The Binational/Public Health Education/Promotion Event: (on any upcoming disease) is a community engagement event to reduce mosquito populations, protect the community against mosquito borne diseases or educate the public and any emerging diseases at hand. The event can inform and educate the binational community about vector-borne disease prevention behaviors, emerging diseases, provide trustworthy and accurate information about and offer the necessary tools and resources for taking action to prevent mosquito-borne infections or other emerging diseases.

The health education event will

- Gain a broad bird's eye view of the border and global vector prevention education or other disease in place
- Get the freshest updates from experts.
- Establish contacts with key local, federal, and international agencies involved in the fight against ongoing transmission.
- Network with colleagues from both sides of the border.
- Learn how an organization/agency can prepare for an outbreak.

Public Health Promotion Events Benefits

- Promote joint actions to address health needs of the population of both sides of the border.
- Increased knowledge and awareness on emerging border public health issues.
- Increased knowledge and awareness about Vector control or other emergent disease of the moment
- Gain a broad bird's eye view of the border and global Vector control situation.
- Get the freshest updates from Vector control or other emergent disease of the moment experts.
- Establish contacts with key local, state, federal and international agencies involved in the fight against ongoing transmission.
- Network with colleagues from both sides of the border.
- Learn how an organization/agency can prepare for a Vector outbreak or of an emerging disease.

Anticipated Outcomes

- Increase knowledge –Persons attending the Health Education Day Event will receive information about public health issues that affect the border.
- Increase knowledge on emerging border public health issues – All binational health council members will be better informed about public health issues that affect the border.
- All binational health council members will Promote joint actions to address public health needs of the population on both sides of the border.
- All binational health council members will work on solutions to address public health issues that might arise.
- Strengthen the collaboration and coordination between Hidalgo-Reynosa BHC and the OBPH Office through BHC meetings and by holding conference calls once a month to monitor, assess, and evaluate binational health council needs.
- Increased knowledge and awareness about Vector control
- Gain a broad bird's eye view of the border and global Vector control virus situation.
- Get the freshest updates from Vector control experts.
- Establish contacts with key local, state, federal and international agencies involved in the fight against ongoing transmission.

Expected Deliverables:

The HIDAREY binational health council will:

- Keep sign in sheets of all meetings
- Provide BHC members bilingual educational flyers/presentation to members and the general public on public health issues that affect the border including vector control or emerging diseases.

- HIDAREY will submit a final evaluation report which will include pictures and sign in sheets, agendas and minutes of all meetings, as well as pictures and flyers of health promotion events.

FUNDING REQUEST

FY24- September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024	
Meetings – Agenda, Sign-In Sheets and Minutes \$500.00 x 4	\$2000.00
<i>Binational/Public Health Education/Promotion Event:</i> Supplies, Copies, Printing, Incentives, Educational Materials, Media	\$7,699.00
Video and Calling Services	\$ 300.00
Total for FY23	\$9,999.00

Vendor: TX ID# 74-

Contact Information

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