

Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS, Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) and Williamson County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), acting by and through Williamson County, Texas (County) have come together to collaborate and to submit an application for the CDC Overdose Data to Action - Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A: LOCAL) grant; and

WHEREAS, the partners listed below have agreed to enter into a collaborative agreement in which WCCHD will be the lead agency and named applicant and the other agencies will be partners in this application; and

WHEREAS, the partners herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the services to be provided by the collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the application prepared and approved by the collaborative through its partners is to be submitted to the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) on or before May 08, 2023;

I) Description of Partner Agencies

The WCCHD is the local health department that serves the cities of Round Rock, Georgetown, Cedar Park, Leander, Liberty Hill, Hutto and Taylor, as well as the unincorporated areas of Williamson County. WCCHD has provided essential public health services to Williamson County since 1943, with a mission to protect and promote the health of the people of Williamson County. In 2021, Williamson County had an estimated population of 613,104 residents and this number represents a 38.7% population increase over the 10 years spanning 2011-2021. During this time, Williamson County has also become more culturally, racially, and ethnically diverse. WCCHD is the primary agency responsible for protecting the health and well-being of the residents in Williamson County and has the delegated responsibility to mitigate, prepare, respond to, and recover from all hazards that can affect the health of the residents and visitors of the community.

The Williamson County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Community Health Paramedics Program (CHP) provide non-emergency care to the residents of Williamson County. These paramedics receive specialized training as community health workers as well as advanced paramedicine training. The goal of the group is to connect Williamson County residents to primary health services, thereby decreasing their reliance on 911 for primary care. In addition, the team provides specialized assistance for medically complicated patients in their homes to reduce preventable ambulance transports and improve overall health literacy. CHP patients are selected to enroll in the program through referrals. Referrals come from WCEMS field staff, first responder agencies, partner organizations such as Bluebonnet Trails Community Services and the WCCHD, or by being identified by the CHP team as high utilizers of EMS. CHP paramedics use ESO's Electronic Health Record to gather patient demographics to provide resources for these patients. Leveraging the access this team has to ESO data entered by the Williamson County's broader EMS responders, CHP is able to immediately identify and

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refer any individuals for whom naloxone has been administered within the EMS response district.

II) Roles and Responsibilities

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the partners as follows:

WCCHD, the grant recipient, will:

- Serve as the primary contact with the CDC as it relates to the implementation of the Overdose to Action Grant activities;
- Develop an inter-local agreement (ILA) with the sub-recipient to ensure the implementation of reported sub-recipient activities and the distribution of award funds;
- Allocate and distribute grant funds in accordance with the funding levels included in the approved grant budget template;
- Make available all necessary sub-recipient reporting templates, timelines, and requirements as shared by the CDC; and
- Manage all elements of tracking and reporting as required of receipts of the grant award.

County, a sub-recipient in the grant, will:

- Implement County related activities and meet all milestones outlined under component A of the grant work plan (prevention);
- Implement County related activities and meet all milestones outlined under component C of the grant work plan (linkage to and retention in care surveillance);
- If the application is approved, will evaluate the need and potentially dedicate grant-funded FTEs to serve in the grant program
- Provide WCCHD access to data required to report on progress towards the successful completion of grant activities and milestones; and
- Provide guidance and expertise to support all elements of grant implementation, evaluation, and reporting.

III) Timeline

The roles and responsibilities described above are contingent on WCCHD receiving funds requested for the project described in the CDC grant application and approval by the Williamson County Commissioners Court for CHP utilization. At any time prior to ILA approval, County may choose not to participate in the grant program. Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding would coincide with the grant period, anticipated to be August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2028.

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IV) Commitment to Partnership

The partners agree to collaborate and provide leadership to successfully implement the activities outlined in the program narrative of the grant application attached to this agreement.

VII) Signatures

The undersigned parties have reviewed the proposed project and approve and agree to this MOU.

Williamson County, Texas (County):

By Honorable Bill Gravell, Jr., Director, Williamson County Judge

Signed: _____ Date _____

County:

Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD):

By Caroline Hilbert, Executive Director, Williamson County and Cities Health District

Signed:  _____ Date 04/20/2023

cc: Agencies and Interested Parties