

Executive Summary Form

Agenda Number: 3140 HLT

Recommendation:

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (master template) between Cochise County and district schools in support of immunization outreach. This MOU was drafted by the County Attorney and will run for one year, with a one-year automatic renewal unless otherwise terminated. The costs of providing immunization for un-/under-insured students in the schools is covered under immunization funding through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Vaccines for insured students (private/AHCCCS) will be billed via our existing agreement with TAPI (The Arizona Partnership for Immunization).

To streamline the documentation process, we are recommending BOS approval of the county's MOU master template that will be offered to some 36 schools in Cochise County. If the schools accept the master template form as drafted, no additional BOS authorization will be sought; however, should a school suggest any material changes, reauthorization of the BOS will be undertaken on a case-by-case basis.

Background (Brief):

Historically, the Cochise County vaccination rate has ranged between low- to mid-ninety percents. Often, school nurses report barriers to vaccination that include travel, cost and access. Cochise Health and Social Services has the responsibility to provide immunizations via the Vaccines for Children's Program (VFC) to the pediatric population in Cochise County, pursuant to A.R.S §36-673. Schools are required to ensure compliance with vaccination standards, pursuant to A.R.S. §15-872. Additionally, this outreach aligns well strategically with ensuring access to preventative services, vaccines falling into the primary prevention level.

It is expected this outreach effort will boost the vaccination rate in Cochise County by enhancing constituent convenience.

Fiscal Impact & Funding Sources:

CHSS receives funding through the VFC program, which covers vaccine cost, or by billing insured children through TAPI, so all pediatric vaccinations are fully covered. Staff time is also partially covered through the Immunizations/VFC grant. Modest incremental fleet charges may be incurred as nurses travel to area schools; however, these costs will be billed to the Immunizations/VFC grant.

Next Steps/Action Items/Follow-up:

Your approvals are respectfully requested.

Impact of Not Approving:

Denial of this MOU could adversely impact access to vaccine to those children in our schools who are most vulnerable.