



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Health & Family Support**

Date: November 27, 2006

To: HEALTH, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Referral to: WAYS & MEANS/BUDGET COMMITTEE

Subject: AUTHORIZATION TO ADD A 1.0 FTE GRANT FUNDED POSITION

Recommendation:

Council authorization to add a 1.0 FTE grant funded position for the federal Pregnancy Psychosocial Risk Screening Validation Study in fund/org 0300-860-8618, contingent upon receipt of the notice of grant award.

Previous Directives:

None

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
Phone: x2884

Approved by:

Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ____ Not Applicable X
Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval ____ Date of Approval ____ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Pat Harrison, Director of Research and Program Development

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

X Other financial impact (Explain): Position is contingent upon receipt of notice of grant award.
____ Request provided to department's finance contact when provided to the Committee Coordinator.

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Department of Health and Family Support was notified November 14 that a research grant application we submitted was selected for funding, with the award to be effective January 1, 2007. The notification was made by telephone by a Program Officer for the Extramural Research Program at the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The award will not be official until the selection is approved by MCH and HRSA officials, and the official Notice of Grant Award is received. We were advised that the process of obtaining the required signature may take almost six weeks.

The informal notification was made for the express purpose of allowing us time to do the advance preparation essential to a January 1 project start-up. For that reason, we are asking for approval of a full-

time, grant funded Family Support Specialist position, pending official notice of receipt of the award, so that we can begin the recruitment process.

The Pregnancy Psychosocial Risk Screening Validation Study is a 4-year project to test the effectiveness of a brief screening interview in detecting prenatal patients who would benefit from mental health or substance abuse treatment, or services to respond to intimate partner violence. The study will also examine whether it is beneficial to screening twice during pregnancy, and evaluate whether community health workers can screen patients as effectively as registered nurses. Northpoint Health and Wellness Center in North Minneapolis and Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC) in South Minneapolis will collaborate with DHFS on this project.

The project budget, subject to final approval, is \$901,364.