



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

County Board Agenda Item Meeting of December 15, 2007
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DATE: December 15, 2007

SUBJECT: Virginia Department of Health Grant for Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Appropriate \$80,925 from the Virginia Department of Health (101.364100) to the Department of Human Services (101.55001) to conduct pandemic influenza outreach and education among key public health stakeholders.

ISSUES: Should \$80,925 be accepted and appropriated for specific activities?

SUMMARY: The Virginia Department of Health grant will be used to enhance local public health preparedness for pandemic influenza through outreach and education to relevant stakeholders in Arlington.

BACKGROUND: In an effort to stimulate state and local preparedness for pandemic influenza, the federal government has provided emergency supplemental funds to the states. As a result, the Virginia Department of Health provided a \$80,925 grant to enhance public health preparedness in Arlington.

DISCUSSION: With estimates that a significant portion (20-50%) of the population will be affected during a pandemic, it is critical that preparedness not be limited to public health agencies alone. All levels of government have identified the need for local public health agencies to engage diverse community stakeholders in planning activities, so that communities are prepared for a pandemic. This Phase III grant will continue to enhance public health and community preparedness by:

- Creating and coordinating pandemic flu outreach activities primarily focused on developing, planning, and delivering: media campaigns emphasizing the importance of respiratory and hand hygiene to prevent the spread of influenza in a pandemic; a legal summit to prepare the judicial system for quarantine and isolation; and continued outreach to vulnerable populations.
- Developing training for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to offer fit testing in physician offices.

FISCAL IMPACT: None. This grant covers expenses incurred through August 31, 2008. All expenses will be covered by the grant. No local match is required.

County Manager: _____
County Attorney: _____
Staff: Reuben Varghese, M.D., DHS, Public Health Division