

Authorizing to Accept WI Department of Health Services Grant Funding for 1.0 FTE
Disease Intervention Specialist for Needle Exchange Services

Public Health Madison and Dane County (PHMDC) has been providing Needle Exchange (NEX) program services, providing harm reduction supplies, and treatment referrals since 1996 in Dane County. The program provides syringes supplies necessary to prevent HIV, Hepatitis C, and other bloodborne pathogens among people who inject drugs. The program follows best practice by providing these supplies at no cost to the client and with minimal barriers. The philosophy of PHMDC's NEX program is to provide stigma and barrier free access to harm reduction supplies.

There has been a dramatic increase in demand for services over the past decade, with a 1,200% increase from 2010-2019 for safer injection supplies. In 2019, PHMDC provided over 6000 exchanges, 211,000 syringes, and 450 Naloxone kits. From January through October 2020, PHMDC has provided over 1100 Naloxone kits.

PHMDC recognizes the importance of primary prevention to prevent communicable disease transmission, as well as tertiary prevention to prevent overdose deaths amongst people who inject drugs and we approach the work through a health and racial equity lens. Data suggests that there is a greater need to outreach to the African American community as the Black-White disparity in opioid overdose deaths in Dane County is more pronounced than the disparity statewide. For the years where opioid deaths occurred in 2016-2018, the Black death rate was 24.1 per 100,000 people, compared to the death rate of 16.9 per 100,000 for Whites during the same timeframe (Data from the Wisconsin Interactive Health Statistics Opioid Module 2016-2018).

To address this gap, WI Department of Health Services has awarded PHMDC \$146,477 of new grant funding to support this program from January 1 - December 31, 2021, with four, one-year renewal periods.

PHMDC proposes using this grant to fund 1.0 FTE Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) position to support the expansion of NEX services and to integrate services provided by the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Clinic and HIV Partner Services. The DIS will connect people who inject drugs in the community with harm reduction tools, will connect them to clinic staff at the SRH Clinic for screening and treatment, and if appropriate connect client's partners to HIV Partner services. DIS staff will provide blood draws to screen for HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis C and are able to provide rapid screens for HIV in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that PHMDC has received a total of \$146,477 in new NEX Grant funding in 2021 and \$87,145 is designated to a DIS position for 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that per the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Madison and Dane County, Public Health employees are employees of Dane County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Public Health anticipates that the position will be hired in the first quarter of 2021 and there will be continued funding for the subsequent four years.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution and approval from the Dane County Board, a 1.0 FTE Disease Intervention Specialist will be created in the Public Health

52 Madison and Dane County 2021 Operating Budget and the position be noted in the 2021
53 Operating Budget to reflect that the continuation of the position is contingent upon continued
54 NEX Grant Funding.