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## Governance Committee

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October 19, 2020

**Chair:** Jeff Coombs

**Present:** Dr. Joseph Miner, Dr. Marc Babitz, Heather Borski, Ralph Clegg, Jeff Coombs, Jerry Edwards, Lloyd Berentzen, Janae Duncan, Dorothy Adams

**Visitors:** Cindy Burnett and Bree Barbeau

**Voting Members:** Heather Borski, Dr. Mark Babitz, Janae Duncan, Ralph Clegg, Lloyd Berentzen, Jeff Coombs

**Co-Chairs:** Heather Borski and Jeff Coombs

### Minutes

Approve minutes from October 5, 2020 Governance meeting.

**Motion to approve minutes:** **1st:** Heather Borski **2nd:** Dr. Mark Babitz

**Voting Members:** Heather Borski, Dr. Mark Babitz, Janae Duncan, Ralph Clegg, Lloyd Berentzen, Jeff Coombs

### Integrated Viral Hepatitis Surveillance and Prevention Funding for Health Departments - Cindy Burnett and Bree Barbeau (Handout)

- This is a five-year grant that combines the previously separated Prevention and Surveillance grant funding as well as adding an optional third component.
- This grant supports integrated viral hepatitis surveillance and prevention programs.
- Key strategies include viral hepatitis outbreak planning and response, and surveillance for acute hepatitis A, B and C, and chronic hepatitis.
- Recipients are expected to develop a viral hepatitis elimination plan, not currently in place in Utah.
- Recipients are also expected to increase comprehensive hepatitis B and C reporting and improve hepatitis B and C testing and linkage to care.
- Contingent on funding, the following activities may be supported under this grant:
  - Surveillance for hepatitis B and perinatal hepatitis C. (currently done in Utah)
  - Increased hepatitis B and C testing and referral to care in high-impact settings such as:
    - Syringe services programs (SSPs), substance use disorder (SUD) treatment centers, correctional facilities, emergency departments and sexually transmitted disease clinics.
- Also contingent on funding, an optional component will support improved access to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of viral, bacterial and fungal infections related to drug use in settings that may be affected by drug use.
- Expected outcomes include improved surveillance for viral hepatitis, increased stakeholder engagement in viral hepatitis elimination planning, and improved access to viral hepatitis prevention, diagnosis, and treatment among populations most at risk.
- Previous awards for comparison 2017-2021:
  - Surveillance - approximately \$300,000
  - Prevention - approximately \$85,000
- Anticipated Average One Year Award Amount for this grant is approximately \$315,000.
- This award would be about a \$65,000 decrease from previous funding however, if the third component is awarded, this may increase the grant back up to level funding.
- Component 1 - Surveillance: \$200,000

- Personnel (Viral Hepatitis Coordinator, Epidemiologist, DIS): \$100,000
- UPHL Contract: \$10,000
  - Utah Public Health Lab funding for testing.
  - Previously funded at \$15,000 per year.
- LHD Contracts: \$90,000
  - An opt-in model has been used in previous years and seven of the thirteen local health departments opted to participate in the project and received funding to conduct enhanced surveillance and confirmatory testing for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.
  - These local health departments were previously funded at approximately \$90,000 per year.
- The opt-in model may change to a flat funding model across all local health departments along with a fee for service model for blood draw and confirmatory testing components.
- This may contribute to a slight decrease in the previous seven local health departments funding due to the funds being spread throughout all thirteen health departments.
  - Funding may be distributed based on acute case burden.
- Component 2 - Prevention: \$115,000
  - Personnel (Viral Hepatitis Coordinator, Epidemiologist, DIS): \$85,000
  - LHD Contracts: \$10,000
    - Increase in funding to provide prevention education.
  - Testing Supplies: \$10,000
    - Funding to purchase and distribute testing kits to local health departments to increase testing for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.
  - Other (supplies, equipment, etc.): \$10,000
    - Funding to purchase supplies to support syringe exchange provider activities.
- Component 3 - Special Projects (Optional): \$85,000
  - UDOH Personnel (Viral Hepatitis Coordinator, Epidemiologist, DIS): \$100,000
  - SSP Contracts: \$50,000
    - Funding to support Syringe Service Providers to support with focus on service bundles to provide prevention service , testing, linkage to care, supplies for harm reduction kits, etc.
  - Testing Supplies: \$15,000
    - Funds to purchase rapid hepatitis C and HIV kits.
  - Other (supplies, equipment, etc.): \$10,000
- Component 3 budget is a rough draft and may have future adjustments.
- There may be future potential for partnering with Syringe Service Providers and providing support.
- The budgets presented reflect the amount of work and responsibility primarily held within UDOH.
- Elimination planning will be primarily at the state level in conjunction with local health departments.
- Local health departments are supporting the collection of data to characterize trends and implement interventions for viral hepatitis as well as disseminating materials and supporting UDOH strategies for testing, surveillance, and outbreak response.
- The Viral Hepatitis Coordinator, Epidemiologist, DIS positions held at UDOH are responsible for overseeing all grant activities. Such as surveillance, prevention, testing, and coordination across all partners.
- If Component 3 is not awarded, other available funding will be used to support the three UDOH positions.
- Local health departments are encouraged to participate in supporting viral hepatitis elimination planning but are not required.
- Fee for service and billing may be discussed to ensure funding is provided for the work that is being done.

**Motion to approve - 1st:** Lloyd Berentzen **2nd:** Heather Borski

**Voting Members:** Heather Borski, Dr. Mark Babitz, Janae Duncan, Ralph Clegg, Lloyd Berentzen, Jeff Coombs

**Other Agenda Items:**

- None.

**Next Meeting - November 2, 2020 - 12:30pm - Room 401/Google Meet**

**Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn - 1<sup>st</sup>:** Jeff Coombs

**Voting Members:** Heather Borski, Dr. Mark Babitz, Janae Duncan, Ralph Clegg, Lloyd Berentzen, Jeff Coombs