



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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March 18, 2021

The Honorable Jess Edwards, Chair
Finance, Division III
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: Request for Additional Information- DHHS Division of Public Health Services

Once again, I would like to thank you for providing the opportunity for the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) to meet with the committee to respond to questions in review of the SFY 22-23 budget. During our session on March 15, 2021, requests were made for additional information which we are providing to you below.

1. Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Accounting Unit 902010-5608 page 1047 (Governor's Operating Budget)

Request 82: Provide information on why funds lapsed for the Tobacco Prevention and Cessation program for SFYs 2021.

Response: After reviewing our expenses for last year, it appears that this accounting unit closed incorrectly. There were general funds expended in FY20, although that is not how it is reflected on page 1047 of the budget. We will look into what happened to cause this error. For the Committee's information, the program had \$335,000 in general funds for FY20 and they expended \$227,428 in FY20. The remaining contract dollars rolled forward into FY21 and \$93,782 was paid out in August of FY21.

2. Immunization Program Accounting Unit 902510-5178 page 1075 (Governor's Operating Budget)

Request 83: Provide additional information regarding budgeted funding adjustments related to the immunization program.

Response: After reviewing our expenses for last year, it appears that this accounting unit closed incorrectly. There were general funds expended in FY20, though that is not how it is reflected on page 1075 of the budget. We will look into what happened to cause this error. For the Committee's information, the program encumbered \$328,871 in general funds for FY20 and they expended \$150,345 in FY20. The remaining contract dollars rolled forward into FY21 and \$174,045 was paid out in July & August of FY21. In reviewing our request for 22/23, we have found that the general fund request was increased in error. We will be submitting a Budget Change Request to reduce the GF to level fund to previous years.

3. Public Health Laboratories Accounting Unit 903010-7966 page 1087 (Governor's Operating Budget)

Request 84: Provide information on how the additional proposed ~\$150,000 in funding would be used for Public Health Laboratories.

Response: The Clinical Microbiology tuberculosis section of the Public Health Laboratories needs to replace the following:

- MGIT system. The current system is 15 years old and is experiencing failures. We have been able to keep the instrument functioning but it will eventually fail and not be repairable. This system is used to analyze clinical samples for Mycobacterium tuberculosis (TB). Growth of the organism is identified by the system and the PHL is able to notify the TB program that the individual has tuberculosis. TB is a very slow growing organism, it takes weeks to months to grow the organism on conventional growth media, therefore the MGIT system is required to shorten this growth period to a more clinically relevant time frame. **Cost is \$40,000.**

The Water Analysis Laboratory section of the Public Health Laboratories needs to replace the following:

- Gas Chromatograph - Mass Selective Detector (GC/MSD) system. The current system is 16 years old and operates on Windows 2000, which is obsolete. Maintenance and repairs are limited to available parts, and DOIT no longer supports the operating system. The instrument is used for the analysis of semi-volatile organic compounds. These compounds are regulated under the Federal Safe Drinking water Act (SDWA) and as the State's principal laboratory; we must maintain the capability to conduct these analyses for drinking water. **Cost is \$110,000.**

4. REP (Radiological Emergency Response) Accounting Unit 903510-1112 page 1092 (Governor's Operating Budget)

Request 85: Provide information related to how Homeland Security - REP (1112) funds are used.

Response: REP 1112 funds are used to enhance readiness and response capability for a potential radiological event including a potential threat or event at the Seabrook Station. The DPHS Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery uses these funds to plan for, train and be prepared to staff three reception centers to support evacuees should an event require activation. These activities include registering evacuees from impacted areas, coordinating the reunification of minors with parents, monitoring when they leave with their disposition, etc.

5. Request 86: Provide information on contracts between Division of Public Health and University of New Hampshire, including funding and services provided.

Response: The Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services currently has six (6) active contracts with the University of New Hampshire. The breakdown of the contracts, including the funding and services provided is below.

- Harm Reduction Training for Community Organizations (Most recently approved by G&C on September 23, 2020, Item #25)
 - Services include training and technical assistance to community-based organization and medical providers on harm reduction strategies.
 - Contract Timeframe: March 19, 2019 - August 31, 2021.
 - Total Price limitation of \$506,308, 100% Federal Funds.
- Epidemiological Support (Most recently approved by G&C on February 17, 2021, Item #14)
 - Services include epidemiological support to the Department and the development of the State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan.
 - Contract Timeframe: June 20, 2018 – June 30, 2024 (the scope for the State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan expires June 30, 2022.)
 - Total Price Limitation:
 - Epidemiological supports – \$1,035,000 47% Federal Funds, 42% General Funds, and 11% Other Funds (Newborn Screening Revolving Fund)
 - State Health Assessment and State Health Improvement Plan – \$345,000. 100% Federal Funds.
- Expanded Biomonitoring Program – Statewide Surveillance Study (Most recently approved by G&C on June 24, 2020, Item #38)
 - Services include telephone survey and volunteer recruitment services for the Department's Biomonitoring Program.
 - Contract Timeframe: January 9, 2019 – August 31, 2024.
 - Total Price Limitation: \$116,000. 100% Federal Funds.
- Evaluation of Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families (Most recently approved by G&C on January 22, 2021, Item #25).
 - Services include the evaluation of the community collaborations program focused to strengthen and preserve families programs.
 - Contract Timeframe: January 1, 2019 – June 30, 2023.
 - Total Price Limitation: \$600,000. 100% Federal Funds.
- Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program (Most recently approved by G&C on December 18, 2020, Item #11).
 - Services include support to the New Hampshire Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program to promote behavioral health integration into pediatric primary care practices.
 - Contract Timeframe: January 23, 2019 – September 29, 2023.
 - Total Price Limitation: \$1,499,000. 100% Federal Funds.
- COVID-19 Sample Testing (Most recently approved by Governor on March 3, 2021).

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- Services include laboratory services to assist in the testing of the COVID-19 samples from long-term care and other facilities.
- Contract Timeframe: December 14, 2020 - June 30, 2021
- Total Price Limitation: \$2,182,500. 100% Federal Funds%

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Morris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lisa Morris, Director

*The Department of Health and Human Services' Mission is to join communities and families
in providing opportunities for citizens to achieve health and independence.*