

Don Adams

From: Shelley Carraway - Health Director
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 3:20 PM
To: Don Adams
Subject: Work Session agenda request for Dec 13

Good afternoon Don,

I am writing to ask if I can be put on the agenda for the December 13th Commissioner's work session. The Jackson County Health Department is being given the opportunity to create a position that will cover all of the counties in Region I and II to act as a Hepatitis C Bridge Counselor. This position will be fully funded by the state (including fringe, travel and supplies). The state would like to create this position to replicate the highly successful model of Bridge Counselling currently in use to link and re-engage HIV positive clients in care but to do so for the Hepatitis C population in our regions. The funds were targeted for the western part of North Carolina because we have been identified as being having a large population of people at high risk for Hepatitis C, and opioid overdose. The state funds are to be put within a local health department for the hiring of a regional Hepatitis Bridge Counselor. This will be the only state funded Hepatitis C Bridge Counselor in North Carolina. This position will work with people newly diagnosed with Hepatitis C to provide education about liver health, to identify knowledgeable providers and link to those providers, and to assist in locating resources for payment of labs and medication, including patient assistance programs for Hepatitis C cure drugs. Our health department would like to step up to the plate to help build this version of the model of a Bridge Counselor. If successful, the plan is to then create more of these Bridge Counselors across the regions. We currently have an internal candidate that is interested in this position. The agreement addendum for the first release of funding is for the service period of 01/01/2017 – 05/31/17. The state has assured the funds are available for continuing this position with a new agreement addendum to begin 06/01/17 – 05/31/18 and potentially for years to come.

Let me know if this work session is the appropriate opportunity to present this potential new position to the Board of Commissioners.

Thanks!
Shelley

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