



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
220 NORTH MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 8645
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48107-8645
(734)222-6850
FAX (734)222-6715

TO: Jeff Irwin, Chair
Ways & Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Ellen J. Clement, Health Officer
Public Health

DATE: May 17, 2006

SUBJECT: Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Washtenaw County Public Health Department (WCPHD) is requesting that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Chair of the Board to sign a Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) between the counties of Washtenaw, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Wayne and the City of Detroit.

BACKGROUND:

On September 7, 2005 the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approved a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Counties of Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, and St. Clair recommended by the Washtenaw County Emergency Management Department (Resolution #05-0145). That agreement provides for assistance among the Counties in the event of an emergency that exhausts our local resources and provides another avenue besides requesting state and federal resources. That agreement is necessary but not sufficient to fully provide for public health mutual aid. The Mutual Aid Agreement being considered today specifically pertains to the Public Health Department.

Public Health Departments are members of Local Emergency Operations Centers and are now considered first responders in the event of emergencies which may be natural or man-made. Critical Task 2 in the WCPHD federal emergency preparedness requirements states that the WCPHD must execute public health mutual aid agreements as part of our formalized all hazard-plan. The MAA being recommended is among health departments in emergency preparedness Regions 2N and 2S with the addition of Livingston County. There may be additional MAAs in the future between Washtenaw County and other public health jurisdictions throughout the state.

DISCUSSION:

Following a catastrophic public health emergency the Washtenaw County Public Health Department may not have the resources or capabilities to respond to all calls or provide all assistance as quickly as needed. In order to reduce response time and provide expeditious emergency assistance it would be beneficial to share resources with the Public Health Departments in other counties and the city of Detroit in our geographic area. Requests for mutual aid may be agreed to or declined for any reason depending on resources available at the time. This agreement will eliminate duplication of effort, allow us to pool human resources, equipment and supplies, and enhance and leverage our existing capabilities.

This Mutual Aid Agreement would provide the framework for area local health departments to coordinate as a single Local Health Department Mutual Aid Consortium during emergency planning and response. Additionally, each Local Health Department will designate a Senior Local Health Department Administrator who would have the sole authority to initiate the transfer or receipt of personnel and or material resources. This Administrator would be responsible for identifying which staff would be shared as well as authorizing resource transfers such as pharmaceuticals, supplies, and equipment.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

Under the terms of the MAA WCPHD personnel would be transferred to the requesting Public Health Department location and for the duration agreed upon. The receiving Public Health Department will designate the Supervisor for the donated personnel. Donated personnel will only work within the specified qualifications and experience of their existing position.

IMPACT ON BUDGET:

Donating Public Health Departments may request reimbursement from the receiving department for pharmaceuticals, supplies, equipment and the cost of donated personnel. With an executed MAA the receiving department may then seek federal reimbursement for MAA expenses to the extent allowed, typically 75% to 100% of incurred costs.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

None

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

Within Washtenaw County this public health MAA applies to the Public Health Department staff and the Environmental Health staff within the Department of Planning and Environment which together make up the local public health workforce. By law the Public Health – Health Officer is responsible for the entire local public health system. An Interdepartment Agreement, renewed annually, provides for this authority within Washtenaw County's unique organizational structure.

The development of a coordinated response in event of disasters, natural or manmade is in the best interest of all Washtenaw County citizens and agencies. By entering into this MAA it will enhance the capacity of the WCPHD to respond to local emergencies.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:

The proposed request is consistent with County policies and with the existing Emergency Management resolution and Washtenaw County Emergency Action Guidelines.

ATTACHMENT:

Southeast Michigan Local Health Department Mutual Aid Consortium Agreement

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD TO SIGN THE PUBLIC HEALTH MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTIES OF WASHTENAW, LIVINGSTON, MACOMB, MONROE, OAKLAND, ST. CLAIR, AND WAYNE AND THE CITY OF DETROIT

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 17, 2006

WHEREAS, the Washtenaw County Public Health Department (WCPHD) understands that following a regional catastrophic public health emergency they may not have the resources or capabilities to respond to all calls or provide all assistance as quickly as needed; and

WHEREAS, major disasters often stretch the resources of any city or county and could potentially exceed the individual response capabilities of any one County; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a public health emergency or any other catastrophic event, neighboring Counties need to be prepared to mutually assist each other during these critical hours; and

WHEREAS, the Mutual Aid Agreement approved by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners on September 7, 2005 is necessary but not sufficient to provide for public health mutual aid; and

WHEREAS, a Mutual Aid Agreement with other counties is required under Critical Task 2 in the WCPHD federal emergency preparedness requirements; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel, Risk Management, the Finance Department, Human Resources, the County Administrator's Office and the Ways & Means Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Chair of the Board to sign the public health Mutual Aid Agreement between the Counties of Washtenaw, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Wayne and the City of Detroit as attached hereto and made a part hereof.