COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: Barbara Levin Bergman, Chair
Ways and Means Committee

THROUGH: Robert E. Guenzel
County Administrator

FROM: Ellen J. Clement
Health Officer

DATE: July 2, 2008

SUBJECT: Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Application

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:
It is requested that the Board of Commissioners ratify the electronic application submission to the Department of Justice Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant in the amount of $94,985 for the period of October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. It is further requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award, amend the budget, and authorize the Administrator to sign delegate contracts.

BACKGROUND:
Public Health, for the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner (WCME) program is seeking funding to assist with plans to centralize our autopsy activities at a single location. The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) and WCME have established a long range partnership to achieve this mutual goal. Currently autopsy services are delivered through partnerships with the University of Michigan Health System-Department of Pathology, Huron Valley Ambulance and a second autopsy facility at St. Joseph Mercy Health System that we propose to eliminate from our program in order to consolidate. Due to the multiple facilities WCME staff must travel several days a week to handle cases at each site, adding time and additional costs to the program.

The Washtenaw County Medical Examiner (WCME) program has been engaged in system improvements over the last 15 years that have achieved several objectives including stronger case investigation systems, autopsies now being performed by a certified forensic pathologist, the enhancement of administrative services, and in February of 2008 an agreement was established whereby the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) pathology department and WCME share a position that serves as Deputy Medical Examiner and hospital Autopsy Director.

Currently the WCME is using equipment that is outdated, of poor ergonomic design, and potentially dangerous to operate. Because of limited storage availability the facilities are often at

capacity with routine case volumes, and have too little storage options in the event of even a small local emergency surge in deaths.

DISCUSSION:

UMHS is making an investment to improve its basic facility and the County is contributing to the facility plan through local funds of $150,000 earmarked for equipment, to better accommodate WCME needs. The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant funding will allow the WCME program to purchase additional equipment to enhance the functionality of the working space:

- Computer workstation – includes a Dell Latitude D630 laptop, 14" Dell Flatscreen

  Computer Monitor, Docking Station and Port Replicator

- 2 Autopsy sinks

- 3-four tier body storage racks

- Cadaver lift

- Autopsy carts

Receipt of the additional Coverdell grant funding for autopsy facility equipment would result in a facility with twice the capacity for autopsies, additional storage for bodies, and a dedicated computer workstation.

Funding will assist with our long range continuous improvement efforts to improve medicolegal investigations locally and to develop a regional death investigative system. Adjacent and nearby counties offer the potential for developing a Washtenaw centered regionalized approach to the provision of forensic pathology autopsy services. Regionalization will result in consistent death investigative practices, uniform collection of death investigative data and efficiencies of scale. In order to pursue this expansion, improved autopsy facility capacity is essential.

The partnership between WCME and the UMHS will establish the capacity to pursue four strategic improvements:

1. Centralize autopsy services in a single facility to improve efficiency
2. Sustain and expand forensic pathology expertise through enhanced opportunities for contracted pathology services and practice opportunities for UMHS-Department of Pathology residents
3. Develop a plan to seek accreditation by the National Association of Medical Examiners and
4. Create a regional medical examiner system.

IMPACT ON HUMAN RESOURCES:

None

IMPACT ON BUDGET

The total program budget is $94,985. The County is not required to provide a cash or in kind match as part of the grant application.

IMPACT ON INDIRECT COSTS:

Indirect costs of $8,635 to the Public Health Department have been included in this application. The grant cap on indirect rates is 10%.

IMPACT ON OTHER COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OR OUTSIDE AGENCIES:
This grant will support and enhance continued collaborative action between the Washtenaw County Medical Examiner program and the University of Michigan Health System.

CONFORMITY TO COUNTY POLICIES:
This request is in conformance with County policies.

ATTACHMENTS/APPENDICES:
Department of Justice - Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Application

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF $94,985 FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2008 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2009; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD; AMENDING THE BUDGET; AND AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN DELEGATE CONTRACTS

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 2,-2008

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County Public Health has submitted an application to the Department of Justice Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant in the amount of $94,985; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Department, Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Program and University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) have established a long range partnership to improve autopsy services in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, this grant is being requested to consolidate autopsy facilities and improve efficiency in autopsy services in Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, funding will be used to purchase necessary equipment to enhance the functionality of the working space leased from the UMHS thereby enabling the Washtenaw Medical Examiner Program to increase the number of autopsies it can complete; and

WHEREAS, this grant will assist with our long range continuous improvement efforts to improve medicolegal investigations locally and to develop a regional death investigative system; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the electronic application submission to the Department of Justice Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program in the amount of $94,985 for the period October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009 as on file with the County Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners takes the following actions contingent upon the receipt of the grant award in conformity with the grant application:

1. Authorizing the Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award
2. Amending the budget, as attached hereto and made a part hereof
3. Authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts in conformity with the application/award upon review of Corporation Counsel, to be filed with the County Clerk.

Public Health
Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant
2962087040
October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009

			Current	Revised	Variance
Revenue:					
	50000	Federal Revenue	$0	$94,985	$94,985
		Total	$0	$94,985	$94,985
Expenditures:					
	70050	Personal Services	$0	$0	$0
	72600	Supplies	$0	$12,300	$12,300
	80000	Other Services & Charges	$0	$0	$0
	94000	Internal Service Charges	$0	$ 8,635	$8,635
	95000	Capital Outlay	$0	$74,050	$74,050
		Total	$0	$94,985	$94,985

Indirect Costs = $8,635