



COMMISSIONERS COURT
COMMUNICATION

REFERENCE NUMBER _____

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DATE: 09/04/2024

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO RENEW SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE DATA USE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TARRANT COUNTY AND VARIOUS HOSPITAL PARTNERS TO CONTINUE SHARING ELECTRONIC HEALTH DATA IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH TEXAS SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM MANAGED BY TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

***** CONSENT AGENDA *****

COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION REQUESTED

It is requested that the Commissioners Court consider renewing Syndromic Surveillance Data Use Agreements (DUA) between Tarrant County and the following hospital partners to continue sharing electronic health data in support of the North Texas Syndromic Surveillance (NTXSS) program maintained by the Tarrant County Public Health Department:

Cogdell Memorial Hospital
Electra Memorial Hospital
Faith Community Health System
Fisher County Hospital District
Muenster Hospital District
Navarro Hospital LP, d/b/a Navarro Regional Hospital
Palo Pinto General Hospital
Texoma Regional Medical Center
TMC Bonham Hospital
United Regional Health Care System

BACKGROUND

In 2012, TCPH developed the NTXSS program to support Texas Public Health Region (PHR) 2/3 with syndromic surveillance activities and has maintained the system since. The NTXSS program includes near real-time data from Emergency Department (ED) visits and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responses. Syndromic surveillance provides public health officials with a timely system for detecting, understanding, and monitoring health threats. By tracking symptoms of patients in EDs and other settings—before and after a diagnosis is confirmed—public health can detect unusual levels of illness to determine whether a response is needed. Public health also uses syndromic data to monitor disease trends.

The ability to receive and monitor syndromic surveillance data is vital for TCPH and hospitals to make data-driven decisions. In addition, the submission of syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies is a requirement for hospitals to receive financial incentives through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Electronic Health Record (HER) Incentive Program, also known as Meaningful Use (MU).

SUBMITTED BY:	Public Health	PREPARED BY: APPROVED BY:	Rasneet Kumar Dr. William B. Bryd
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Currently, Tarrant County has ten (10) active DUA's with the above-named hospitals which allows each hospital to share electronic health data with TCPH in support of the NTXSS program. The DUA's, as approved by the Commissioners Court, through Court Order Nos. 99050, 99431, 110584, 119160, 119622, 121285, 121565, 124040, 124802 and 124802, included a 30-day termination clause but did not include a termination date.

The attached DUA's are being presented to the Court for renewal in an effort to establish a 10-year cycle. TCPH provided each hospital partner with a termination notice and informed each hospital partner that an updated DUA was forthcoming. The updated DUA's are substantially similar and TCPH does not anticipate a disruption of operations during the brief period in which the new DUA's overlap with the prior agreements.

If approved, the DUA's with the above-named hospitals will be renewed for a period of ten (10) years to continue sharing electronic health data in support of the NTXSS program.

The Criminal District Attorney's Office has reviewed these documents as to form.

FISCAL IMPACT

All associated cost will be paid through grant F0081-2025.

Please Note: Due to the volume of information, copies of the entire packet are not being reproduced for distribution. However, the information may be viewed online in the Commissioners Court's agenda on the Tarrant County website or in the Commissioners Court records within the County Clerk's Office.