

AGENDA ITEM #: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: September 14, 2020

CAR #: 2020-7016



## CITY COUNCIL ACTION REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Community Paramedicine Pilot Program with United Healthcare

**STAFF PRESENTER(S):** Paul Luizzi, Fire Chief

**OTHER PRESENTER(S):** None

**Summary:** The Fire Chief will provide updated information to Council about the Intergovernmental Governmental Agreement for the regional community paramedic pilot project and the associated United Healthcare Inc. grant.

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the City Manager or her designee to execute all documents necessary to enter into an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Peoria and City of Surprise for the community paramedicine program.

**Fiscal Impact:** Staffing costs and other operational expenses for the continuation of this pilot project will be funded by the United Healthcare grant with the City of Peoria.

### Background and Previous Actions

The Community Paramedicine Program provides health services to the underserved elderly citizens that frequently use the 911 system for non-emergency care. This also includes patient populations with chronic conditions. This program acts as the patient's advocate to better connect the patient to a variety of health services outside the hospital emergency department. This program has shown value in freeing up vital emergency room beds, which fosters higher efficiency with the emergency medical services model.

This opportunity with United Healthcare (UHC) evolved from many conversations with hospital executives and inquiries to health insurers. At a prior Council Work Session of December 14, 2015, and a Council Meeting of May 23, 2016, the Fire Chief outlined and reviewed an innovative grant opportunity with Vitalyst, which provided funding to enhance services to our most vulnerable populations. The Goodyear Fire Department is uniquely positioned to provide trained medical personnel and already has a previously established community infrastructure.

On September 23, 2019, the Community Paramedicine regional pilot program was funded by a UHC grant award in the amount of \$175,000. Pursuant to an IGA between Goodyear, Surprise

and Peoria the program has been in operation for one year. The remaining balance of the grant award is \$89,000. During the initial grant year (September 2019-September 2020), the pandemic occurred and UHC approved a pause in the program during the pandemic. The City of Peoria has opted out of the pilot program to address another program within their city. Although they will no longer participate, the City of Peoria will continue to administer the grant and disperse the funds.

The fire department and partnering agencies have amended the IGA for Council consideration to account for the change in Peoria's role and to reflect the new grant balance. Staff anticipates that the remaining funds will last for up to one calendar year.

### **Staff Analysis**

This regional IGA will allow the City of Goodyear and the City of Surprise to continue the previously successful community paramedicine program. From September 2019 through March 2020, 225 patients were referred to the program with 74 from Goodyear. Of the 225 patients, 92 were enrolled prior to the shutdown. This opportunity to continue the community paramedicine pilot program with the City of Surprise allows staff to continue to focus on broader healthcare issues.

This program will improve the medical and public health system allowing emergency vehicles to deal directly with emergent calls. The pilot project goals continue to be; reducing the burden on the 911 system, creating more fiscal responsibility with taxpayer dollars, decreasing unnecessary emergency room visits, opportunities for regional collaboration to maximize resources and creating a public/private partnership. This model will be one in which emergency responders facilitate appropriate use of emergency care resources and/or enhance access to primary care for medically underserved populations. It is anticipated that the current funding balance of the grant will allow the program to continue for another 12 months. It is anticipated the current funding balance will last for an additional calendar year. Approval of this IGA will allow the city to continue providing an evolving model of community-based health care.

### **Attachments**

Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement for the Community Paramedicine Pilot Program with United Healthcare

