

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance authorizing 1) execution of an agreement with King County Department of Public Health (PHSKC) to accept funds to partially support the Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) program; 2) amending the 2019-2020 Operating Grants and Donations Fund adopted on December 3, 2018, as previously amended, to increase the appropriation by \$209,299 and authorizing acceptance of King County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS) funds from PHSKC in the amount of \$209,299; establishing a project within the Operating Grants and Donations Fund; appropriating unanticipated and future revenues to that fund; and authorizing the expenditure of said funds.

Jay Hagen, Fire Chief , 452-6892

Dave Beste, Battalion Chief, 452-6982
Fire Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance will allow the transfer of funds from KCEMS to the Bellevue Fire Department to partially fund a unit staffed by professional social workers to respond with firefighters to members of the community that may need social services. This will allow the department to spend the necessary time with the community member to connect them with the social services they need, at the time they need them.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6466

If approved, effective date: 06/13/2019

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Bellevue Fire Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) program addresses the needs of frequent, low acuity 911 callers and other citizens in need of assistance not available from a responding Emergency Medical Technician or paramedic during an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response. Without a citizen having underlying needs being met, these individuals often become high utilizers of the 911 system and hospital emergency departments. Firefighters and police officers report that sometimes neither they nor a resident know the available appropriate community resources to meet an individual's needs, thus engaging the trained and knowledgeable CARES team is invaluable.

The CARES team consists of two paid professional social workers and graduate students working towards a master's in social work. The professional social workers respond to non-emergency Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support, and Police type calls as the CARES response unit. The CARES graduate student advocates spend the time necessary to follow up with patients and clients, this allows the CARES response unit to be free to respond to all types of incidents and other community requests.

Beginning August 2017 and funded through grants, Bellevue staffed a unit with professional social workers. This CARES response unit operates weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (during the hours that community services are open) and is available to respond anywhere in Bellevue Fire Department's service area. Bellevue firefighters and police officers can call the unit to respond, at the time of incident, to any type of call, from minor, non-emergency (low acuity) to life threatening. The response unit can work with residents at the time of the call, during their time of greatest need, while the individual is still in crisis. This can result in an initial diversion of the individual from the ER and potentially lead to a long-term solution to the needs that resulted in the 911 call.

Following a tiered model, once the CARES response unit has completed their initial engagement with the client, the case is turned over to the CARES team for ongoing referrals and coordination. This leaves the CARES response unit available and in-service to the fullest extent possible for additional incidents. CARES may be added to a call at the request of the responding unit and is able to meet the initial response unit at the scene, meet them at the emergency room or stay at the scene to engage with family members when a patient has been transported. CARES's engagement with residents at the time of the crisis has reduced the number of individuals who decline services or with whom CARES is unable to make contact for follow-up.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

City Financial Policy: Pursuant to RCW 35A.34.200(d), the expenditures in the final budget shall constitute the City's appropriations for the fiscal biennium. Under provisions of State law and the City's operating procedures, the operating budget may be amended by an ordinance that amends the original budget and states the sources of funding for incremental appropriations.

City Contracting Policies: Bellevue City Code 4.28.040A - Council approval is required for contracts greater than \$90,000.

City Council Vision Priorities 2018-2020: Regional Leadership and Influence - Bellevue will lead, catalyze, and partner with our neighbors throughout the region.

Fiscal Impact

This is a reimbursement from PHSKC/KCEMS to partially fund the CARES program through December 2019. CARES was initially funded in late 2017 through short-term grants that ended in December 2018. Adopting this Ordinance will appropriate \$209,299 in the Operating Grants and Donations Fund to be received from KCEMS. The total program cost included in this award is \$209,299 and does not require a City match.

This agreement will assist in providing base services through 2019. Grants and donations will be approximately \$350,000 to fund CARES in 2019. The current EMS levy expires at the end of 2019. If passed, the 2020-2025 EMS Levy will include a mobile integrated healthcare program, which could fund CARES. Bellevue is slated to receive about \$600,000 and will no longer piecemeal funding for the CARES program. The 2020-2025 King County EMS Levy is anticipated to be on the general election ballot in November 2019.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance authorizing 1) execution of an agreement with King County Department of Public Health (PHSKC) to accept funds to partially support the Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) program; 2) amending the 2019-2020 Operating Grants and Donations Fund adopted on December 3, 2018, as previously amended, to increase the appropriation by \$209,299 and authorizing acceptance of King County Emergency Medical Services (KCEMS) funds from PHSKC in the amount of \$209,299; establishing a project within the Operating Grants and Donations Fund; appropriating unanticipated and future revenues to that fund; and authorizing the expenditure of said funds.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

A. Proposed Agreement from King County Public Health
Proposed Ordinance No. 6466

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

Contracts
Agreements