



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 05-2837, **Version:** 1

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Recommendation to authorize City Manager to execute the Seventh Amendment to Agreement No. 26738 with Los Angeles County to provide HIV/AIDS treatment adherence services in the amount of \$68,617, for a period of one year. (Citywide)

Since 1998, Los Angeles County has contracted with the City of Long Beach to provide Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) treatment adherence services. Under this agreement, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides information about HIV disease, related illnesses, and the latest available treatment options in both group and individual settings. The program also provides an effective means to refer HIV positive individuals to the available network of services offered by DHHS and other agencies. Over this period of time, the DHHS Preventive Health Clinic has provided 27,535 client services to approximately 500 HIVpositive persons per year. The proposed 7' amendment continues funding for the program from April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006.

Many people infected with HIV/AIDS face multiple challenges that can have an effect on their care and treatment. As a result, HIV/AIDS care is a very specialized discipline that requires a team approach to address those issues. As a part of the treatment team, the treatment adherence specialist will assess the needs of each patient and create a service plan that provides the education and support necessary to assist patients in understanding their disease and will provide them with the skills to be healthier and have a better quality of life. The treatment advocate works with approximately 300 HIV/AIDS patients at the Early Intervention Program for the City of Long Beach.

Treatment Adherence services are provided by one-on-one counseling sessions. These sessions include education on decreasing the risk of acquiring other diseases associated with HIV infection and on prevention methods aimed at reducing the risk of transmission of HIV to others. The program also provides information on medications and their side effects, and assists the client in identifying major obstacles that could impact their health.

This approach to total healthcare results in patients who are able to adhere to their medication regimes, more quickly identify problems or issues with their medications, and adjust their medications to meet their health needs. It also provides ongoing prevention education to all patients that is aimed at reducing the risk of transmission to others.

The Treatment Adherence program also conducts regular public education sessions open to all HIV/AIDS infected and affected members of the community. These sessions include information promoting wellness and prevention activities, and provide the latest medical updates on HIV/AIDS. Typically each public education session attracts between 70 to 100 community members.

This matter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna F. Gwin on May 31, 2005, and by Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on June 1, 2005.

City Council action on this item is requested on June 21, 2005, as the DHHS has been providing services under this amendment since April 1, 2005, but is unable to recover costs until the contract is approved.

The total amount of the agreement is \$68,617 for the period from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006. Sufficient funds are currently appropriated in the Health Fund (SR 130) and in the Department of Health and Human Services (HE).

Approve recommendation.

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[Respectfully Submitted,]