



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is requested to approve this Budget Ordinance Amendment to create one full-time FTE county funded Dental Van Driver position in the Durham County Department of Public Health Dental Division.

Background/Justification

In December 2016 the Durham County Department of Public Health accepted delivery of new mobile dental van, known as the Tooth Ferry. The unit is equipped with ADEC dental equipment, (hand-held) x-ray units, ceiling mounted television and sound system. Technology upgrades in the units allow for connecting with software and complete x-rays in real time within the community. The Tooth Ferry visits various Durham elementary schools, treating those children without a dental home, and who are uninsured or covered with Medicaid.

During the school year, the Dental Division's Public Health Hygienist screens up to 8,500 students in Durham's elementary schools. Those with dental need are provided letters offering parents the option to have their child treated on the Tooth Ferry. The Tooth Ferry will then visit schools, staying 4-6 weeks, depending on the number of students scheduled for treatment. The Tooth Ferry team includes the Dentist, Coordinator, Dental Assistant, and Dental Hygienist. The goal for the van is to see 1,500 appointments annually.

In 2018 the Department eliminated the driver position and opted to contract with Trillium Staffing. With the certification and licensing requirements it was surmised that a contract driver may best suite the Department's needs. While the drivers sent to operate the Tooth Ferry had been acceptable, in the past year it has been more difficult to schedule the same driver. In addition, there has been a reduction in drivers in the Durham area making it difficult to schedule with the schools.

In order to better serve the needs of the community, a Mobile Dental Van Driver is a priority. The Dental Division is proposing a new position description to encompass Air Brake certification, mechanical aptitude, etc. Without the Dental Van Driver position, the Department of Public Health may not be able to continue visiting DPS Elementary Schools, thus impacting treatment to children in need of dental care.

Policy Impact

This action is in line with current Board policy and do not require an exception.

Procurement Background

Not Applicable

Fiscal Impact

Funding for the position will come from the reallocation of existing contract funds in the Dental budget which were currently used to contract with a driving services company.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 20BCC000046 to create one full-time FTE county funded Dental Van Driver position in the



Durham County Government
Agenda Action Form Supplemental Document – Noncontract Approval

Durham County Department of Public Health Dental Division at \$37,964 of transferred funding from contracted services