

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM: Budget Amendment for Viral Hepatitis Prevention (Buncombe County Health & Human Services – Public Health).	
MEETING DATE: November 1, 2016	
REQUESTED BY: Jim Holland for Amanda L. Stone	
Background information An estimated 3.5 to 5.3 million Americans are chronically infected with hepatitis B (HBV) or C (HCV) and deaths attributed to viral hepatitis infections far exceed those attributed to HIV/AIDS. Viral Hepatitis and HIV/STDs contribute greatly to health care disparities in North Carolina with the majority of hepatitis C individuals co-morbid with mental health and/or substance abuse disease. Despite the significant public health impact of viral hepatitis infections, the general public, at-risk populations, and health care professionals remain largely unaware of this silent epidemic. BCHHS will use the additional funds to support partnerships and community engagement with clinicians working in public health facilities that can treat and cure persons infected with HCV. These meetings will gather clinicians from public health facilities, academic medical centers, community clinics, and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to discuss viral hepatitis. Clinical providers will be introduced to a new training program—NC Hepatitis C: Test, Link, Cure (TLC)—and will interact with subject matter experts from academic medical centers, establish peer networks, and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to treat hepatitis C patients.	
Pro's Increases awareness, knowledge and skills among area public health clinical service providers about identifying and treating viral hepatitis	Con's None
Funds required No county funds are required.	
Alternatives	
Action recommended: Increase Viral Hepatitis budget by \$5,500 to reflect additional federal funding.	