



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 9/17/2019

Consent

Department: Public Health

Presenter(s): Jennifer Barnette, Budget

Contact(s): Jennifer Barnette, Budget; Stoney Blevins, HHS

Subject: Viral Hepatitis Prevention

The Local Health Department contracts for a Hepatitis C Bridge Counselor to support viral hepatitis activities related to prevention messages, screening and testing for HCV infection, and linkage to care. The primary purpose of a Hepatitis C Bridge Counselor is to link people who are infected with hepatitis C virus to clinical providers for treatment. The Hepatitis C Bridge Counselor is responsible for facilitating linkage to care, providing disease specific patient education, and tracking the patient at specific milestones through the treatment cascade.

State supported funding for providing the counseling and testing services began in FY2018. It was not expected that Public Health would receive state funds in FY2020. The program continued for FY2020 through county funds. With the receipt of these funds, Public Health will expand the level of needed services for counseling and testing provided through the existing contract.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Board of Commissioners to approve the budget amendment request.

County Manager's comments and Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented.