



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: December 6, 2011

Prepared By/Phone Number: David A. Salazar 854-4107

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Sherri E. Fleming,
County Executive for Health and Human Services and Veterans Service

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Consider and Take Appropriate Action on Request to Post Notice of Public Hearing to Receive Comments Regarding Proposed Amendments to Chapter 57 (Travis County Smoking Policy) of the Travis County Code.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

Travis County Commissioners Court adopted the current Smoking Policy on October 21, 1986, to be effective January 1, 1987. In November of 2010, the Court approved the Interlocal with the City of Austin to receive funding through a grant from the Center for Disease Control to improve the health of government employees and the general public through cessation of the use of tobacco products. Even before implementation of the grant, the Travis County Wellness Clinic has provided tobacco cessation counseling and treatment and has, since, undergone a public information campaign to educate staff and the public about the hazardous nature of using tobacco products. The grant also suggests that the grantees consider the implementation of Tobacco Free Workplace policies. Posting a public hearing to receive comments will enable the Court to consider feedback from all segments of the County workforce and open the forum for feedback from Travis County residents as well, prior to making decisions on any proposed policy changes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends approval of the request to post notice and the scheduling of a public hearing to receive comment from staff and the public regarding any proposed changes to the Chapter 57 of the Travis County Code (Travis County Smoking Policy).

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

On November 16, 2010, the Court approved an Interlocal Agreement to participate in a grant and receive funding through the City of Austin from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, to help reduce tobacco use prevalence and exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke under the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) initiative.

Travis County's Health and Human Service and Veterans' Service (HHS/VS) Department, in collaboration with the Travis County's Wellness Clinic, was charged with the implementation of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) initiative, whose objectives are to:

- 1) protect the well-being of Travis County employees, their families and the community by reducing tobacco use prevalence and exposure to second-hand smoke; and
- 2) explore the implementation of a Tobacco Free Workplace policy at all Travis County properties, and to provide resources for employees who want to stop using tobacco products.

The Interlocal with the City of Austin for funding of this initiative, in the amount of \$200,000, is set to expire on February 29, 2012.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Approving this request will not increase the County Budget.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Mary Etta Gerhardt