



City of Dallas

Dallas County ILA to Authorize Public Health Authority

Kevin Oden
Director

Travis Houston
Deputy Director

Emergency Management & Crisis Response
City of Dallas

Presentation Overview



- FY 26-27 Health Authority Interlocal Agreement
- Background and Legal Framework
- Role and Responsibilities of the Health Authority
- Health Authority Appointment and Qualifications
- Benefits to the City of Dallas
- Next Steps



FY 26-27 Health Authority Interlocal Agreement



- Authorizes a two-year agreement with Dallas County for Dr. Phillip Huang to serve as the City's Health Authority
- Ensures provision of essential public health services to City of Dallas residents
- Total cost: not to exceed \$20,000 (\$10,000 per year)
- Maintains same terms as FY 24-25 agreement



Background and Legal Framework



- Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) Director Dr. Phillip Huang currently serves as Health Authority
- State law (Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 121) requires each jurisdiction to appoint a Health Authority
- The Health Authority acts as a state officer in enforcing public health laws and managing disease control
- Health Authority defaults to Department of State Health Services Regional Director if one is not appointed



Role and Responsibilities



- Fulfill statutory duties under Texas Health & Safety Code §121.024
- Enforce public health laws and control communicable diseases (e.g., quarantine orders, contact tracing and notifications)
- Notify the City's Office of Emergency Management & Crisis Response (EMCR) of incidents within 24 hours
- Respond to infectious disease inquiries from EMCR within 24 hours
- Participate in Unified Command during declared public health emergencies and disasters



Health Authority Appointment and Qualifications



- Appointed: Dr. Philip Huang, MD, MPH (Director, Dallas County Health and Human Services) for a two-year term
- Required qualifications:
 - Licensed physician in good standing in Texas
 - Resident of Texas
 - Officially appointed and sworn in, with filing to the state



Benefits to the City of Dallas



- Strengthens City of Dallas' operational public health framework
- Enhances coordination between DCHHS and EMCR during preparedness and response
- Ensures unified command and information sharing during emergencies
- Serves entirety of City of Dallas, including areas outside of Dallas County



Next Steps and Questions



- Advance the ILA to City Council on **October 22, 2025**, for adoption





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