

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** September 19, 2007

**SUBJECT:** School Health Nurse Funding Initiative

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

A State grant, called the School Nurse Funding Initiative, provides \$50,000 for a full time school nurse, additional to the current school nurse staffing level. The aim is to improve the school nurse to student ratio closer to the ratio of 1:750 recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of School Nurses. The General Assembly directed the Division of Public Health to select the recipients for these funds based on the current school nurse to student ratio and other factors, including health and social needs.

While these funds have been allocated in the past utilizing a funding formula for school health nurses, this is the first year that Henderson County has been made this offer. Presently our ratio of students to nurse ratio is the 4<sup>th</sup> worst in the State, or 112<sup>th</sup> out of 115 school districts. Using 2006-2007 school year student population, we have a nurse to student ratio of 1:2,189. Using that same student census figure, the addition of one extra nurse would change the ratio to 1:1,876.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to authorize the Health Department to accept the funds offered on a continuing basis by the State for adding a new public health nurse as soon as October 1, 2007.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

I make the motion that the Health Department be authorized to accept the State funding grant for the purpose hiring a new public health nurse as soon as October 1, 2007.



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health • Women's & Children's Health Section**

1928 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1928

Tel 919-707-5600 • Fax 919-870-4880

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

**Memo**

Date: August 21, 2007

TO: Local Health Directors

FROM: Jessica Gerdes, School Nurse Consultant

RE: Implementation of the School Nurse Funding Initiative (S.N.F.I.) for Fiscal Year 08

We are pleased to offer your county a grant with which to increase the number of school nurses. This grant is included in the budget recently ratified by the North Carolina General Assembly and signed by Governor Easley. We knew you would want to be the first to know.

The grant, called the School Nurse Funding Initiative, provides \$50,000 for a full time school nurse, additional to the current school nurse staffing level. The aim is to improve the school nurse to student ratio closer to the ratio of 1:750 recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of School Nurses. The General Assembly directed the Division of Public Health to select the recipients for these funds based on the current school nurse to student ratio and other factors, including health and social needs.

The North Carolina Division of Public Health administers the School Nurse Funding Initiative. Primary responsibility rests with the Women's and Children's Health Section, through the School Health Unit of the Children and Youth Branch. The Section's contracts and budget staff oversees the distribution of funds to local health departments through Agreement Addenda.

In a number of counties, the local health department has decided to direct this grant directly to the local education agencies, hospitals, or health care systems. In those cases, the School Health Unit administers those funds to the LEAs through contracts.

With the school year fast approaching, it is important that this Unit begin the process of writing Agreement Addenda with your agency or contracts with the schools.

Please let me know, as soon as possible, through phone call or email, which avenue you wish to pursue. If you want more information on which to base your decision, please call me at 919-707-5667 or email me at Jessica.Gerdes@ncmail.net.

Jessica Gerdes  
State School Nurse Consultant

Cc: Carol Tyson, School Health Unit Manager



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public Health • Women's & Children's Health Section**

1928 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1928

Tel 919-707-5600 • Fax 919-870-4880

Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary