



COLLIN COUNTY

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TO: Collin County Health Care Foundation

FROM: Candy Blair, Manager, Health Care Services

DATE: July 8, 2013

RE: Ratification of Board President's Prior Approval for FY2014 TB Inter-Local Application – State Funds

Please approve ratification of Board President's prior approval for the Inter-Local Application for Tuberculosis Prevention and Control for FY2014 State Funds. The award amount is \$196,194.00 which includes a one-time additional allocation of \$36,000.

TB is a communicable disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB is spread from person to person through the air. When a person with pulmonary or laryngeal TB coughs, sneezes, speaks, or sings, droplet nuclei containing *M. tuberculosis* are expelled into the air. Depending on the environment, these tiny particles (1-5 microns in diameter) can remain suspended in the air for several hours. If another person inhales air containing droplet nuclei, transmission may occur.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Left untreated, each person with active TB disease will infect on average between 10 and 15 people every year. But people infected with TB bacilli will not necessarily become sick with the disease. The immune system "walls off" the TB bacilli which, protected by a thick waxy coat, can lie dormant for years. When someone's immune system is weakened, the chances of becoming sick are greater.

- Someone in the world is newly infected with TB bacilli every second.
- Overall, one-third of the world's population is currently infected with the TB bacillus.
- 5-10% of people who are infected with TB bacilli (but who are not infected with HIV) become sick or infectious at some time during their life. People with HIV and TB infection are much more likely to develop TB.

The best way to stop transmission is to identify and isolate patients with infectious TB immediately and start effective TB therapy. Infectiousness declines rapidly after adequate therapy is started, as long as the patient adheres to the prescribed regimen. The overall goals for treatment of tuberculosis are (1) to cure the individual patient, and (2) to minimize the transmission of TB to other persons. Thus, successful treatment of tuberculosis has benefits both for the individual patient and the community in which the patient resides.

Texas is ranked second in the top five leading U.S. States by number of TB cases. Collin County has outpaced Texas and the nation in population growth over the last 36 years and the demands for TB services in Collin County are likewise increasing. In order to keep up with those demands and to continue to fulfill our assigned public health role, we will use additional funding to purchase supplies, pay for diagnostic studies, and meet other TB clinic needs.

