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Agency of Human Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Doug Racine, Secretary of Agency of Human Services
FROM: Mark Larson, Commissioner, Department of Vermont Health Access
DATE: July 11, 2012
RE: Cindy Blood – Contract #22676, Justification Memo

Vermont Blueprint's Expansion and Quality Improvement Program (EQuIP) provides facilitation or coaching to primary care practices throughout the state. It is one component of the State's broader health delivery reform initiative, the Vermont Blueprint for Health.

The EQuIP program provides practice facilitators to primary care practices that enroll in the Blueprint to assist them in building capacity for continuous quality improvement, attaining recognition as a Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and incorporating community health teams into their practice. EQuIP facilitators also work with health information technology (IT) specialists from the State's Regional Extension Center (REC) to further electronic health record (EHR) implementation in Blueprint practices, and support meaningful use of EHRs and other health IT.

The aim of the program is to control health care costs, improve the health of the population, and improve patient and health care provider experiences of care. To that end, the Contractor will serve as a Practice Facilitator (0.75 FTE) to coach approximately 6 to 8 primary care practices in the Brattleboro Health Service Area (HSA). Work will be tailored to assist each practice in successfully integrating them into the Vermont Blueprint for Health program.

A Simplified Bid Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted April 12, 2012 with a close date of April 30, 2012 or until filled. The sole bidder, Cindy Blood, submitted a resume and budget, which was reviewed by the Blueprint's Associate Director to ensure that the Contractor would meet the minimum qualifications. The bidder was interviewed by the Associate and Assistant Director of Blueprint using a standard set of interview questions. After a thorough interview process, it was determined that the bidder was well qualified for the position, was within the amount allowable for the contract, and would be able to successfully provide much needed services in the Brattleboro HSA that is currently without a facilitator

This contract complies with all mandatory provisions of AOA Bulletin 3.5. Funding for this agreement will be covered by Global Commitment to Health appropriations. DVHA looks forward to approval of this agreement.