

SBAR Courier Support

1. Situation: (Brief description of the current issue or situation requiring project/program.)

Annually, the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) reviews the statewide courier system to assure it can be maintained with current funds appropriated to the service. The number of stops has ebbed and flowed to a minimal degree over the years depending on the status of funding. Unfortunately, for FY 17 it will be necessary to eliminate a more substantial number of courier pick up sites due to lack of funds unless additional funding is made available. This funding reduction was exacerbated by the four percent cut in general revenue funding for Fiscal Year 2016.

2. Background: (Relevant background data about current situation and current and past approaches to the situation)

For more than fifteen years the MSPHL has contracted with a courier service to expedite testing by transporting specimens from 175 sites throughout the state to the MSPHL. Initiated by the Newborn Screening Unit of the MSPHL to facilitate rapid screening and result reporting for newborns, the courier service has also ensured timely receipt of other sample types in order to rapidly identify biological, chemical and environmental threats to the public's health. This courier system enabled the Public Health system in Missouri to meet critical objectives cited in the Public Health Preparedness Grant (PHEP). The MSPHL has worked closely with Local Public Health Agencies to add and subtract pick-up sites when necessary.

In the aftermath of the 2011 Joplin tornado the courier also became the mode of rapid transportation for vital records information, thus reducing the document processing turn-around-time.

This vital public health service has been funded through federal and state funds including PHEP, HIV Prevention and Childhood Immunizations grants, DNR Recoupment, MoPHS (predominately fees collected from

hospitals for newborn screening), DNR Safe Drinking Water and General Revenue funds.

The courier system has benefited Missouri's public health system by ensuring expedient delivery of samples of local public health significance for testing and rapid reporting, as well as, deferring all local costs incurred by shipping these samples individually through utilizing a conglomerated system that can achieve superior pricing based on uniting shipments into one statewide system.

3. Assessment: (Your assessment about the situation and description of project or program that might address the situation.)

As was done in 2010, when the MSPHL worked closely with the Local Public Health Advisory Committee, the MSPHL will work collaboratively with the Director's Advisory Council to secure the anticipated shortfall of \$148,000 or make the necessary cuts by eliminating courier pick-up sites based on: geographic coverage, proximity to another site, access to another site, number and type of samples picked up, cost, and potential for split services within a county. It is anticipated with the projected shortfall that approximately 35 local public health agencies could lose current pick up site designation. The costs associated with shipping local samples to the MSPHL for testing via an alternative existing courier site or a commercial vendor would then fall back to the individual LPHA.

4. Recommendation/ Request : (policy, personnel, other resources needed to accomplish the project or program)

Research all areas of potential funding sources for the courier services to ensure all possible funding sources have been evaluated and exhausted. This could include additional core funds from PHEP, PHEP carryover, local support through unused PHEP funds directed by the LPHAs, Local Public Health core funding, or unused General Revenue in support of the existing courier for FY17 and ongoing. DHSS will work with our local partners to determine whether alternative funding sources are feasible and/or cuts to the courier system are required for FY-17.