

# FORSYTH COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: April 13, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS TO THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA) TO SUPPORT THE POSSE (PREVENT ONGOING SPREAD OF STIs EVERYWHERE) STRAIGHT TALK PROGRAM (FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:** Recommend Approval

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

The Preventive Health Division area of the Forsyth County Department of Public Health is requesting permission to submit a five-year grant application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 for its POSSE (Prevent Ongoing Spread of STIs Everywhere) Straight Talk Program.

This funding will allow POSSE to expand their Straight Talk HIV/STI prevention program. Straight Talk is a peer health education training program which trains participants from the target population to be peer health educators and to recruit their peers for HIV testing. The success of this program has been evident through increased HIV prevention knowledge of participants, newly identified HIV/STI infections and clients connected to treatment services, and meaningful employment obtained by several participants.

POSSE has been partnering with a local nonprofit for more than five years to provide HIV prevention services through the Straight Talk Program. Funding from this grant would cover salaries & fringe benefits for 2.5 staff members, operating and testing supplies, travel and training, cell phone plan, and space rental.

This five-year grant request in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 dollars will be used to support staff and operating expenses for the prevention of HIV and STIs in our community. The grant period for this project is from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020.

No additional County dollars are requested to match this grant.

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE: J. Audrey Watts, Jr.

COUNTY MANAGER

DATE: April 8, 2015

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS TO THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA) TO SUPPORT THE POSSE (PREVENT ONGOING SPREAD OF STIs EVERYWHERE) STRAIGHT TALK PROGRAM (FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)**

**WHEREAS**, the Forsyth County Department of Public Health proposes to expand its POSSE (Prevent Ongoing Spread of STIs Everywhere) Straight Talk Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Straight Talk Program will recruit individuals from the target population to participate in the Program and to get tested, train participants as peer health educators, identify new HIV/STI infections and refer clients to treatment, and train participants on job readiness skills with the aim of obtaining meaningful employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Straight Talk Program will be provided in collaboration with a local nonprofit organization and other community partners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Forsyth County Department of Public Health requests authorization to apply for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant in an amount of not to exceed \$1,100,000 over 5 years to fund the expansion of the POSSE Straight Talk Program; and no additional County dollars are requested to match this grant.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager or his designee, the Health Director, and the Clerk to the Board to execute, on behalf of Forsyth County and its Department of Public Health, the necessary documents to apply for a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 to fund the expansion of the POSSE Straight Talk Program.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2015.