



## Agenda Item Summary

---

**File #: 25-00216**

**Agenda Date: 3/25/2025**

---

**Agenda Item Name:**

**Presentation: Fire Rescue Community Health Plan**

**Presenter:**

Harold Theus, Chief, 352-384-3101

Jodie Benware, Captain, 352- 264-6584

**Description:**

Presentation to update the expansion of the Mobile Integrated Health Team into a Complex Community Health Program, consisting of Community Paramedicine, Community Health Workers, Coordinated Opioid Response Network, and Medication-Assisted Treatment services.

**Recommended Action:**

Hear Presentation

**Prior Board Motions:**

On January 28, 2025, the Board heard a presentation item# 25-00094.

**Staff Recommendations:**

1. Continue the existing program structure through September 30, 2025.
2. Transition the key functions of the CHW Program to the MIH Team on October 1, 2025.

Commissioner Prizzia, Commissioner Alford, Commissioner Wheeler, Commissioner Cornell (states motion in comments), and Fire Chief Harold Thieus presented comments.

Commissioner Prizzia moved to as our team to look at court combining options 2 and 3 to have geographically assigned community health workers working in collaboration with our fire rescue integrated mobile health team. Bring back recommendations during the budget process. Fire Rescue would be in charge. The reason to combine the options is to sunset the program and only have their two mobile integrated health teams existing peer support specialist which are focused on substance abuse trained as community health workers and to add additional geographically assigned community health workers that would be dealing with general public and well being through a community health worker program. The ideal scenario would be that the employees would be hired from the community and trained to provide the service within the community. The motion carried 4-0 with Chair Chestnut out of the room.

2nd Commissioner Alford. The motion carried 4-0 with Chair Chestnut not present.

1. Continue the existing program structure through September 30, 2025. 2. Transition the key

functions to the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Team on October 1, 2025.

**Fiscal Note:**

A consultant will be used within the Manager's approval threshold, not to exceed \$50,000. There is sufficient funds to cover this expenditure within the Closing Health Care Disparities (Cat 3.14) project funding currently allocated to the Community Health Care Worker program (052.29.0064.569.34.00 Project ARP2021x013 Contractual Services). Future cost of the program will be brought to the BoCC during the FY26 budget development.

**Strategic Guide:**

Public Safety

**Background:**

On January 28, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) directed Fire Rescue staff to present recommendations for integrating Community Health Workers into Fire Rescue's Mobile Integrated Health Team. Currently, the Community Health Worker program operates within Community Support Services, with its grant funding set to expire at the end of this fiscal year. Fire Rescue and Community Support Services staff have met multiple times to discuss the program's scope. With similar grant-funded and partially grant-funded programs emerging, Fire Rescue staff are recommending consulting services to consolidate these programs under a unified structure. This integration will ensure the program is both effective and sustainable.