



February 4, 2020

via email (jaywest@schouse.gov)

The Honorable John Taliaferro West, IV
Subcommittee Chair, House Legislative Oversight Committee
PO Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Representative West:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Community Outreach Paramedic Education (COPE) program at the Subcommittee's January 15, 2020 meeting. As requested, DHEC respectfully submits the following:

1. Over what period of time was the DAODAS funding used for the COPE program?

From the funds awarded to DAODAS through the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis grant, DHEC expended \$120,344.80 to launch the COPE program. The contract period with DAODAS related to this grant was from June 1, 2017 to April 30, 2019.

2. The CDC grant is for approximately \$303,000 over three years. How many additional providers do you anticipate could be funded with this grant?

The CDC grant funding for the COPE program for the first year (September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020) is \$303,436. Of that funding, approximately \$200,000 is intended for community paramedic programs by EMS agencies. It is difficult to estimate how many agencies can participate in COPE under this grant, which is expected to be funded for two additional years, because the cost of participation is primarily related to the number of visits rather than the number of agencies participating. For example, a larger agency in a more populated area that makes more visits would be more expensive to fund than an agency in an area with fewer overdoses that makes fewer visits. However, the funding under the grant is open for any and all participating agencies until depleted.

3. Providers receive funds per visit; is there any other distribution of funding?

Participating agencies can be reimbursed at contracted rates for successful visits as well as for a series of documented unsuccessful attempts to reach a patient. No other funds are directly distributed to participating agencies.

Sincerely,

Ellen Andrews-Morgan