

**FORSYTH COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BRIEFING
DRAFT**

MEETING DATE: JUNE 27, 2019

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 16

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN HOLOGIC, INC., AND FORSYTH COUNTY TO PROVIDE LABORATORY TEST SUPPLIES FOR THE HOLOGIC PANTHER TO FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)

COUNTY MANGER'S RECOMMENDATIONS OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Forsyth County Department of Public Health is requesting permission to enter an agreement with Hologic, Inc., for the supply of reagents required to perform molecular testing using the Hologic Panther. The Department has consulted with Jerry Bates, who sees this as meeting criteria for sole source.

Forsyth County Department of Public Health started using the Hologic Panther in 2014. The Hologic Panther is a laboratory machine that supports the public health laboratory with molecular testing, which reduces labor, time and liability for our lab, and results in short wait times for clients with results in as little as four hours. It offers superior accuracy and specificity (will only target the pathogen selected). Further, it allows collection of samples using more simple measures like vaginal swabs, urine samples, and self-collected samples.

Hologic allows our use of their equipment at no cost. Reagents, a substance or compound that causes a chemical reaction, are required to perform molecular testing, are exclusive to the equipment, and must be purchased. Our reagent costs are \$6.00 per Trichomoniasis test and \$7.54 for a combo kit for combined Chlamydia and Gonorrhea tests. Hologic provided that the cost for combo reagent kits for public health departments in North Carolina ranges from \$7.50 to \$8.00. There has been no price increase for reagents since the initial agreement in 2014.

Guilford, Wake and Durham Counties also utilize the Hologic Panther. The State Lab currently uses the Tigress which is similar technology for larger volume testing, but reports they will be switching to the Panther for open access. Mecklenburg contracts with Labcorps, and both New Hanover and Cumberland Counties contract with an outside lab for Gonorrhea testing and perform culture method in-house and Trichomonas wet preps for females.

Alternative equipment is available in the market, including the BD Viper, BD Max and Xpert. All listed have higher reagent costs (\$15.98 - \$51.18 per test). The BD Viper and Xpert also have

limited capacity and would require would require a reduction in our in-house testing array, or the purchase of a secondary equipment for Trichomonas testing. Other factors supporting continued use of the Hologic Panther include:

- 1. The Hologic Panther has capacity for emergency testing such as Zika and Ebola, and for scalability to meet evolving department needs;
- 2. The Hologic Panther footprint fits within the existing laboratory space;
- 3. The Hologic Panther has capacity to run multiple tests from a single specimen, which is important because it means the customer only has to have one specimen extracted, and there is a lower associated cost for collection devices;
- 4. The Hologic Panther requires minimal maintenance downtime;
- 5. The Hologic Panther tests have been verified and validated and are compliant with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) and COLA accreditation;
- 6. The Hologic Panther has no hidden costs (does not require purchase of service, hardware, primers, fluids, waste bins, etc.);
- 7. The Hologic Panther is integrated with the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) and Laboratory Information System (LIS);
- 8. Laboratory employees are proficient in using the Hologic Panther;
- 9. Hologic, Inc. has local service/support that is responsive to Forsyth County needs;
- 10. Less continuous labor is required with the Hologic Panther than like-systems, allowing employees to multi-task;
- 11. The Hologic Panther has the ability to test samples for multiple sites, e.g. pharyngeal, rectal, vaginal and urine specimens;
- 12. The turnaround time for Hologic Panther testing is 3.5-4 hours; with capacity to prioritize STAT samples; and
- 13. The Hologic Panther includes a maximum of 118 specimens initially with continuous feed.

ATTACHMENTS: X YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
 COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN
HOLOGIC, INC., AND FORSYTH COUNTY TO PROVIDE
TEST SUPPLIES FOR THE HOLOGIC PANTHER TO FORSYTH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH)**

WHEREAS Forsyth County uses the Hologic Panther, a machine that performs molecular laboratory testing for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Trichomoniasis in the public health lab;

WHEREAS Hologic, Inc., is the sole provider that has material reagents required to perform testing using the Hologic Panther;

WHEREAS Forsyth County shall enter into an agreement with Hologic, Inc., for them to provide reagents; and

WHEREAS an agreement between Hologic, Inc., and Forsyth County shall not exceed \$195,000 annually and shall extend for two (2) additional contract periods on a fiscal year basis, if both parties are in agreement and provided funds are available for that purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners that the County Manager and the Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized to execute a contract on behalf of Forsyth County with Hologic, Inc., to purchase laboratory test supplies in an amount not to exceed \$195,000 annually, and to execute amendments and renewals to this Agreement within budgeted appropriations, for up to two (2) additional years, subject to a pre-audit certificate thereon by the County Chief Financial Officer, if applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney.

Adopted this 27th day of June 2019.