

LETTER OF AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING SERVICE AREA 1 – SUB-SERVICE AREA1a

Since the events of September 11, 2001 there is a broader understanding of the need for public health systems to work in a collaborative and cooperative environment with response partners. A prepared and fully interoperable public health infrastructure that is inclusive of hospitals, emergency medical services, trauma care and emergency management/all-hazards response systems is critical.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) Division of Acute Disease Prevention, Emergency Response and Environmental Health (ADPER) -Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services (BETS) is working to build a comprehensive system of care for time critical conditions. IDPH reviewed in-patient/out-patient data from 2014 for trauma, cardiac, and stroke events to identify where patients seek care for these “time critical conditions”. When time critical events occur (highly infectious disease, cardiac events, stroke, trauma, etc.), patients who need care migrate to appropriately capable facilities which provide a framework for local partners to work together as a system to ensure the most appropriate and effective level of care for the population. As many communities within a geographic area will have similar vulnerabilities as well as patient care patterns, it is important to establish responsibilities and capacities in advance of disasters to be able to work toward common goals when an entire area is impacted.

Beginning with the Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017) grant period IDPH intends to combine the funding for PHEP/HPP emergency preparedness, along with the EMS System Development Fund and award this funding to service areas to foster a coordinated effort among local partners to work on improving Iowa’s planning, response to time critical conditions. IDPH has identified 6 Service Areas and additional Sub-Service Areas.

Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Clarke, Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Madison, Polk, Union and Warren Counties comprise of what is considered Service Area 1, Subservice Area 1a. People’s work, entertainment, worship, education and recreation travels take them back and forth across county borders on a daily basis. While local health departments and emergency management agencies are defined, by code and statute and by county borders, IDPH views the 11 - county area as part of a single sub-service area.

Each of the members of Service Area 1a agrees to:

1. Regularly participate in Service Area 1a meetings
2. Share work plans and progress reports (as required by the Iowa Department of Public Health
The Iowa Department of Homeland Security)
3. Share jurisdictional risk assessments and/or mitigation improvement plans
4. Participate in each other’s’ drills and exercises
5. Agree to Service Area 1 – Sub-Service Area 1a Organizational Rules

Together we agree to:

1. Develop inter-organization communication and information sharing systems to facilitate coordinated responses
2. Coordinate training and exercise events
3. Coordinate resource investments
4. Work together on the capabilities that are common for public health, hospitals and emergency management.
5. Develop and sustain an integrated public health and healthcare system to support ESF-8 Public Health and Medical Services

In addition, Polk County Health Department agrees to:

1. Serve as the fiscal agent for Service Area 1 – Sub Service Area 1a.

In addition, Dallas County Public Health agrees to:

1. Serve as the hiring agency for the Coordinator position.
2. Service Area 1 – Sub Service Area 1a will set job description, salary and assist with hiring and evaluation processes.

