State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

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Director and State Public Health Officer

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

November 8, 2023

Luke Rodda, PhD,
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the City and County of San Francisco (SFOCME)
1 Newhall Street
San Francisco, CA 94124

RE: Intent to Fund The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the City and County of San Francisco (SFOCME) for the Enhanced Forensic Toxicology Program

The Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch (SAPB) of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is writing to confirm that SAPB intends to provide contract funds to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for the City and County of San Francisco (SFOCME) to improve detection of potent synthetic novel opioid use (e.g., novel opioids and fentanyl analogs), and opioid-stimulant polysubstance use as part of the Overdose Prevention Initiative. This funding is to cover costs for reducing rates of drug misuse and overdose within San Francisco and in other California counties. Contingent upon federal funding and final approval, the contract is anticipated to be for the amount of $1,086,740.83 for the period 9/1/2023-6/30/2028. The contract is contingent upon CDPH approval and work may not begin until the contract has been fully executed.

SAPB staff appreciates SFOCME's ongoing commitment to collaborating on the Enhanced Forensic Toxicology program. San Francisco County will become the primary model for demonstrating the feasibility and value-added of collecting detailed forensic toxicology data from multiple sources. This data will be shared with CDPH/SAPB to inform actions and interventions.

SAPB looks forward to continuing this very productive partnership.

Shanna Schneider

Shanna Schneider, Chief
Program and Support Unit
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