



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**For Agenda Of:** January 5, 2015  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer Public  
Director(s) Health Department  
Contact Info: Ellen Willis-Conger, Asst. Deputy, Community Health 681-5446  
**SUBJECT:** Biennial Report for the Syringe Exchange Program

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:** That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations:

- a) Receive and file the Biennial report for 2014-2015 on *The Right Outfit* Syringe Exchange Program (Attachment A).
- b) Determine that the above actions are organizational and administrative activities of government that are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda for submission of a biennial report on the Syringe Exchange Program to the Board of Supervisors. As specified in the requirements for the ongoing authorization of a local syringe exchange program, a biennial report must be presented at a public hearing (Cal. Health & Safety Code § 121349.3). This biennial report (Attachment A) on the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. Syringe Exchange Program (aka *The Right Outfit*) is presented to the Board of Supervisors in response to this requirement.

**Background:** On August 1, 2006 the Board of Supervisors authorized ongoing approval for the Pacific Pride Foundation's *The Right Outfit* as specified in AB 547 (Berg). Pacific Pride Foundation distributes new hypodermic syringes to injection drug users in exchange for used syringes to help reduce the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases through the use of sharing contaminated syringes. Pacific Pride Foundation staff maintains records regarding the number and characteristics of program participants, the number of syringes distributed and collected, and information, services, and referrals provided to participants. Pacific Pride Foundation staff worked with the Public Health Department Epidemiology and HIV/AIDS Services staff to prepare the biennial report included here as Attachment A.

The percentage of AIDS infections declined significantly between 2005 and 2014. The percentage of AIDS cases with injection drug use (IDU) as a risk factor has been limited in the past 6 years.

Brief highlights of the data analysis contained in the biennial report (Attachment A) are provided below:

- 394 unique clients, 261 in South County and 133 in North County, participated in the program.
- 1,286 exchanges were completed, 823 in South County and 463 in North County.
- 54,654 sterile syringes were distributed and 68,976 contaminated syringes were collected and properly disposed of, reducing the number of used syringes on the street by 14,322.
- 91% of clients were offered HIV and Hepatitis C testing.
- 100% were provided with IDU-specific harm reduction educational materials, HIV, Hepatitis C, and STI educational materials, and biohazard containers.
- 62% were referred to substance abuse counseling services.
- 19% of the unique clients were referred directly to mental health services.
- 42% of the unique clients were referred for additional STI testing.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: N/A

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Pacific Pride Foundation operates the Syringe Exchange Program and receives no county funding for Syringe Exchanges.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
0

**FTEs:**  
0

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at [phdcu@sbcphd.org](mailto:phdcu@sbcphd.org).

**Attachments:**

- A. Syringe Exchange Program Report 2014-2015

**Authored by:**

Ellen Willis-Conger, Asst. Deputy, Community Health