



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:** December 10, 2019  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD  
Director(s) Public Health Department Director  
Contact Info: Joy Kane, Senior Epidemiologist,  
Community Health, 681-5304  
**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 report for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 on *The Right Outfit* Syringe Exchange Program (Attachment A).
- b) Determine that the above action is not a "Project" because it is an organizational and administrative activities of government that 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 report on the Syringe Exchange Program (aka *The Right Outfit*) operated by the Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF). This is a privately funded program to reduce the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases through needle sharing. As specified in the requirements for the ongoing authorization of a local syringe exchange program, a report must be presented at a public hearing. (Cal. Health & Safety Code § 121349.3.)

**Background:**

On August 1, 2006 the Board of Supervisors authorized ongoing approval for PPF's *The Right Outfit* program as specified in AB 547 (Berg). PPF 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. PPF staff maintains records regarding the number of participants, their demographics, and the number of syringes distributed and collected. In addition, PPF maintains records on information, services, and referrals provided to participants. PPF staff worked

with the Public Health Department Epidemiology and HIV/AIDS Services staff to prepare the report included as Attachment A.

The number of HIV/AIDS infections has remained relatively stable in the past five years in Santa Barbara County. The percentage of HIV/AIDS cases with injection drug use (IDU) as a risk factor has fluctuated between 4%-10% in the past five years. In 2018, 9% of newly diagnosed HIV cases had IDU as a risk factor.

Below are brief highlights of the data analysis for FY 2017-2018 in the report:

- The Syringe Exchange Program served 839 unique clients, of which 44% were in Santa Maria, 20% were in Lompoc, and 36% were in Santa Barbara
- Of the unique clients, 62% were male and 38% were female. Less than 1% identified as Female-to-Male
- The race/ethnicity of clients are as follows: 59% Non-Hispanic White, 35% as Hispanic, 2% African America, 1% American Indian, 1% Asian/Pacific Islander, and 2% as Other
- A total of 2,659 exchanges were completed: 44% in Santa Maria, 38% in Santa Barbara, and 18% in Lompoc
- In FY 2017-2018, 2.5 times more syringes were distributed (268,728 sterile syringes) than in FY 2015-2016
- In FY 2017-2018, 2.7 times more contaminated syringes were collected and properly disposed of (273,181 contaminated syringes) than in FY 2015-2016, reducing the number of used syringes on the street by 4,453
- All clients were offered HIV, Hepatitis C, and additional STI screenings. Of the 85 clients who were screened for Hepatitis C, 17.6% (N=15) tested positive. No clients tested positive for HIV
- The Syringe Exchange Program routinely provides referrals to substance abuse counseling (58% of clients were referred) and mental health services (21% of clients were referred)
- In June 2016, an opioid overdose prevention program was implemented by the Syringe Exchange Program. Since the program was initiated, 1,452 Naloxone kits were distributed and 424 known overdose reversals were reported

**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 FY 2017-2018

**Authored by:**

Joy Kane, Senior Epidemiologist, Community Health