



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: May 16, 2017
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Carrie Topliffe, Interim Director Public Health Department
Director(s)
Contact Info: Ellen Willis-Conger, Asst. Deputy Director, Community Health
681-5446
SUBJECT: Report for the Syringe Exchange Program

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 2015-2016 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 report on the Syringe Exchange Program (aka *The Right Outfit*) operated by the Pacific Pride Foundation. 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 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 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 report (Attachment A) are provided below:

- 420 unique clients, 236 in South County and 184 in North County, participated in the program.
- 63% of clients were male, 36% female, and <1% Female to Male Transgender with an average age of 41.
- 50% of clients identified as Caucasian, 36% as Hispanic/Latino, 5% as American Indian, 3% as Asian/Pacific Islander, 3% as African American, and 3% as Other
- 1,506 exchanges were completed, 740 in South County and 669 in North County
- 100,007 sterile syringes were distributed and 103,680 contaminated syringes were collected and properly disposed of, reducing the number of used syringes on the street by 3,673.
- In June 2016 an opioid overdose prevention program was implemented, 28 clients were educated and received overdose medication to block the effects of opioids. These 28 clients have since reported 15 lives saved with overdose medication.

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.

Attachments:

- A. Syringe Exchange Program Report 2015-2016

Authored by:

Ellen Willis-Conger, Asst. Deputy Director, Community Health