



**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: August 21, 2007  
Placement: Set Hearing  
Estimated Tme: 20 minutes on 9/18/07  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Dan Reid, HIV/AIDS Program Administrator (681-5421)

**SUBJECT: Annual Status Report for the Needle Exchange and Education Program**

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form:  Yes  No  N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set a hearing to consider the Needle Exchange and Education Program (The Right Outfit)  
Annual Status Report 2007.

**Summary Text:**

As specified in the requirements for the ongoing authorization of a local syringe exchange program, an annual status report must be presented at a public hearing. This annual report (see Attachment A) on the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. Needle Exchange and Education Program (aka The Right Outfit) will be presented to the Board of Supervisors and the interested parties on September 18, 2007.

**Background:**

On August 1, 2006 the Board of Supervisors authorized the ongoing approval for the Pacific Pride Foundation's The Right Outfit as specified in AB 547 (Berg). This authorization requires the submittal of an annual status report for The Right Outfit in a public hearing. The annual status report is provided as Attachment A to this Board Letter. Since August 2006, the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. has worked with the Santa Barbara Public Health Department to:

- Explore other agencies and potential additional sites to provide needle exchange services.
- Develop a more extensive information collection and management system
- Explore opportunities for acquisition of funding support
- Seek input from the County Law Enforcement Council (CLEC) on program operations.

### **Survey of Interested Agencies**

The Program Administrator (Dan Reid) of the Santa Barbara County HIV/AIDS Services Program, working with the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Program and the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc., identified several potential needle exchange sites such as Casa Esperanza and Good Samaritan homeless shelters and various substance abuse treatment programs. Substance abuse treatment agencies indicated that a needle exchange program at the program site would be problematic as it might tempt clients engaged in substance abuse treatment programs to relapse. Other agencies indicated concerns for client safety and liability associated with proper collection and disposal of contaminated needles. Finally, one agency, Casa Esperanza, expressed interest, but due to restrictions on their existing conditional use permit, they indicated that they could not administer a needle exchange program. However, they might be able to consider allowing a Community Based Organization, such as the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. to operate the Right Outfit on their premises. Due to funding and staffing limitations at the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc., this is not currently feasible.

### **Enhanced Informational System**

To better understand the impacts and outcomes of The Right Outfit, the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc., working with the Public Health Department's staff, State Office of AIDS staff, and an information technology consultant, developed a client survey tool and customized Access database. The survey tool is designed to assign a unique identifier to all Right Outfit clients, and collect information on their behaviors, substance usage, demographics, referrals, and medical status with relation to HIV, STDs and/or other communicable diseases over time. The survey tool was implemented in late December 2006 and the customized database came online in January 2007. As with most new systems, the early months have shown gaps in consistent implementation and initial problems with the customized Access database. A brief highlight of some of the data analysis contained in the annual report (Attachment A) is provided below:

- Over 33, 000 contaminated needles were collected and disposed of properly.
- Over 30,000 clean needles were distributed through The Right Outfit Santa Barbara and Santa Maria locations.
- Sixty percent (60%) of client visits occurred in Santa Barbara and 40% in Santa Maria.
- There was a total of 629 client visits, by 448 clients from December 2006 through June 30, 2007. Seventy nine (79) clients had multiple visits.
- Seventy three (73%) of the clients were male and almost 27% were female
- Ranges of 25-30% of all program clients are infected with Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and/or HIV (most are in treatment or were referred for treatment).
- Ninety three percent (93%) of clients indicated they were in a heterosexual relationship in the last 12 months, but only 9.3% reported using a condom during their last sexual encounter.
- Historically 46.8% of clients indicated that they used only clean needles; but in the last 12 months, 69.3% of clients reported using clean needles.
- Almost 90% of clients reported they return only their contaminated needles and the data above shows that they received a one-to-one exchange and in a few situations they received less (an indication of a decline in substance usage).
- Lifetime, the drugs of choice have been heroin, alcohol, amphetamine and cocaine. Over 60% of clients responding indicated they had used these drugs in their lifetime. However these clients accessing The Right Outfit have indicated that their drug use has declined, for all substances, including amphetamines (meth) in the last 12 months.

- Many clients provided comments on the benefits of the program. These included; access to clean needles, preventing infection, preventing the spread of HIV or other diseases, access to substance abuse treatment programs and free HIV testing.

Of the 79 clients that returned more than once, almost all of the clients were offered some type of referral. Of those that were referred for HIV testing, 13.8% received that testing. More than a third of clients referred for counseling, received that counseling. Three clients (4.3%) successfully entered substance abuse treatment programs. We expect to see an increase in successful referrals over time. Initially due to implementation difficulties, not all referrals were appropriately tracked and not all successful referrals were appropriately recorded.

### **Funding Opportunities**

The Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc., with input from the Public Health Department, applied for a State Office of AIDS grant program to enhance existing needle exchange programs. Ten programs were chosen throughout California, but unfortunately the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. was not selected. The Right Outfit operates in Santa Barbara County without any public funding support except for support from the Public Health Department to properly dispose of contaminated needles.

### **County Law Enforcement Council (CLEC) Input**

The Public Health Department and Pacific Pride Foundation staff recently met with CLEC to review operations and information on The Right Outfit. Representatives of CLEC reviewed information provided and suggested areas where changes to operations may be beneficial. These requests included:

- Exploring methods of reducing needle exchange below a 1 to 1 ratio (giving out fewer needles than receiving).
- Collecting information on drug-related crime.

The Pacific Pride Foundation and Public Health Department administration welcomed the input from CLEC, has established a contact person for CLEC, and will be researching best practices to act upon their suggestions.

### **Performance Measure:**

There are no specified performance measures for this Board Action. The existing Scope of Work for the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. specifies semi-annual reporting and parameters of operations. The Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. is currently in compliance with all contract requirements.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

### **Fiscal Analysis:**

Narrative: This action does not increase the use of the General Fund contribution. Pacific Pride Foundation operates the Needle Exchange and Education Program at no cost to the County.

The action does not result in the need for additional facilities.

### **Staffing Impacts:**

The action does not result in the need for additional staff.

Annual Status Report of Needle Exchange and Education Program

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**Special Instructions:**

Return a copy of the Minute Order to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 N. San Antonio Road, Bldg 8; ATTN: Margaret Granger.:

**Attachments:**

Needle Exchange and Education Program (The Right Outfit) Annual Status Report.

**Authored by:**

Dan Reid, Program Administrator