



## Attachment A

### Needle Exchange and Education Program (The Right Outfit) Annual Status Report 2007

#### I. Background-

The Board of Supervisors on August 1, 2006 authorized the ongoing operation of the Pacific Pride Foundation Needle Exchange and Education Program (The Right Outfit) in relation to AB 547 (Berg). This authorization includes a requirement for an annual Program status report presented at a public hearing.

#### II. Program improvements since August 2006

A. Development of a customized database and survey tool to collect client-level information on communicable diseases, visits, client behavior, medical treatment, demographics and referrals.

B. Client surveys began in late December 2006 with customized database online in January 2007.

#### III. Program Data Analysis<sup>1</sup>

A. 30,443 needles distributed from January to June of 2007 (17,271 south county and 13,172 in north county). There were 33,448 contaminated needles collected and properly disposed of through the Public Health Department medical waste stream: 19,121 south county and 14,327 north county. Over 3,000 more needles were collected than distributed.

B. Database information was reviewed twice during this time frame. Database and data entry errors were detected. The database was modified and data entry and data collection protocols have been modified to minimize problems.

C. Results of six months of data review (December 2006 – June 30, 2007).

1. Total of 629 client visits by 448 clients. 369 clients came only one time, or provided the same identifying information only one time.
2. 94% of those accessing the The Right Outfit program were Santa Barbara County residents. 6% were from San Luis Obispo. 13.2% of clients indicated they were homeless.
3. 60% of visits in South County and 40% in north county
4. Average number of needles collected = 50; average distributed = 48.
5. 72.8% male, 27.0% female (2 pregnant women); 1 transgender.
6. Average age was 38 with a mode of 20 (ranged to 80 years old)
7. Race: White 58.7%; Hispanic 31.6%; American Indian/Alaskan Native 5.1%; Black 2.2%; Others 2.3%.
8. Communicable diseases
  - a. 2 HIV positive clients, 58 Hepatitis B positive, 157 (25%) Hepatitis C positive; 6 Hepatitis A positive; STDs ranged from 0.3% to 2.5% of clients responding to the survey.
  - b. Majority of the clients infected with communicable diseases are in treatment; however, those not in treatment are referred for medical treatment.
9. Drug Usage
  - a. Lifetime Drug Usage 78.5% of clients indicated Heroin and Alcohol use; Amphetamine and Cocaine were both at 60.7%.
  - b. Clients reported a decrease in usage of all drugs in the last 12 months.

<sup>1</sup> Data reported, unless otherwise indicated, is from the customized Right Outfit Access database and is for the period of December 2006 through June 30, 2007.

10. Client Behaviors
  - a. 92.8% of clients reported heterosexual contact; Men having Sex with Men (MSM) reported for 12.1% of clients responding.
  - b. Sharing Needles
    - 46.8% of clients indicated they only used clean needles (not used by anyone else); 42.6% sometimes share with others; 6.7% always share needles. In the last 12 months, 69.3% of clients indicated that they had not shared needles.
    - 88.6% of clients indicated they brought in only their needles; 7.2% indicated they brought in needles for others.
11. Referrals-
  - a. N = 629 client visits
    - HIV testing referrals were provided during 515 client visits. This equals 82.9% of all client encounters included HIV testing referrals.
  - b. N = 79 repeat clients
    - HIV testing referrals were provided during 174 client visits- 13.8% of these referrals were successful
    - HIV prevention education referrals were provided during 127 client visits- 33.9% of these referrals were successful.
    - STD testing referrals were provided during 88 client visits - 3.4% of these referrals were successful.
    - Substance abuse treatment referrals were provided during 69 client visits- 4.3% of these referrals were successful.
12. Comments- a sampling of client comments (unedited)
  - a. 6/27/2007 – “Clean unused needles. Info about street drugs, condoms, Free HIV testing. I want to complain about having to fill this sheet out every time I come in. Thank you for being here.”
  - b. 3/15/2007 – “It has enabled me to stay HIV Negative. Also, I don't give anyone my Hep C.”
  - c. 05/23/07-“THIS PROGRAM KEEPS ME FROM USING DIRTY NEEDLES AND BEING ON THE STREET FOR THESE THINGS. IT HAS HELPED KEEP ME DISEASE FREE. MANY THANKS!”
  - d. 1/22/2007 – “Keeps me from using old rigs. And the people who work there are friendly and give you advice on just about anything you ask. They are genuinely caring people and listen to you if you have other problems. Thanks Me.”
  - e. 1/23/2007 – “Doesn't use dirty needles. Going on Suboxone Doses Start Today. Clean 3 1/2Yrs Stopped Then Relapsed 2 months Ago.”
  - f. 2/14/2007 –“THANK YOU FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND SUPPORT. WITHOUT YOUR HELP I FEEL I WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH HIV OR HEPATITIS. THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING THERE FOR ME. I HAVE ENROLLED IN A TREATMENT PROGRAM (VOLUNTARILY) AND HOPE”

#### IV. Conclusions

The Right Outfit database and client survey have been very successful in acquiring data on client services and client outcomes. The Right Outfit program efficiently collects and disposes of contaminated needles. Initial data demonstrates reductions in drug usage and needle sharing practices. More efficient and consistent collection of data is needed in specific areas such as referrals and successful referrals. Additional modifications were necessary to improve the functionality of The Right Outfit Access database and staff needed further direction and training regarding data collection and reporting techniques. The above data demonstrates that current prevention methods are effective in many areas such as overall drug usage and needle sharing practices.