



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 19, 2008
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
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
Contact Info: Dan Reid, HIV/AIDS Program Administrator (681-5421)

SUBJECT: Annual Status Report for the Syringe Exchange 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:

Receive the 2008 Syringe Exchange Program (The Right Outfit) Annual Status Report.

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. 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 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 the last status report on September 18, 2007, the Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. has worked with the Santa Barbara Public Health Department to:

- Refine its extensive information collection and management system
- Explore opportunities for acquisition of funding support
- Respond to requests from the County Law Enforcement Chiefs (CLEC) for supplemental client information.

Refinement to information management system

The Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. revised data collection procedures to insure accuracy of client self-reported information including additional training for needle exchange counseling and data training staff. Information technology specialists have upgraded the system to prevent duplicate client entries. The Pacific Pride Foundation, Inc. worked with the Public Health Department Epidemiology and HIV/AIDS Services Program staff to review the 2007 calendar year data and to prepare the annual report included here as Attachment A.

A brief highlight of the data analysis contained in the annual report (Attachment A) is provided below:

- 814 unique individuals accessed The Right Outfit in 2007;
- A total of 51,867 contaminated needles were collected and properly disposed of while 50,081 were distributed. This represents a reduction of 1,786 in the street supplies of needles.
- Of those accessing The Right Outfit, 71% were male and 29% were female with the average age for both genders approximately 38 years old,
- Race/Ethnicity for Syringe Exchange Program clients: almost 2/3 were non-Hispanic white while about 1/3 were Hispanic.
- Two-thirds of the exchanges took place at the Santa Barbara location and one-third at the Santa Maria location. Currently syringe exchange hours are available five days a week in the Santa Barbara location and two days a week in the Santa Maria location.

County Law Enforcement Chiefs (CLEC)

A report on the Syringe Exchange Program and client survey data were presented at the July 30, 2008 meeting of the County Law Enforcement Chiefs.

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 Syringe Exchange Program and receives no County funding for Syringe Exchange.

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

Staffing Impacts:

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

Special Instructions:

Please return an electronic copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at PHDRES.ContractsUnit@sbcphd.org

Attachments:

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

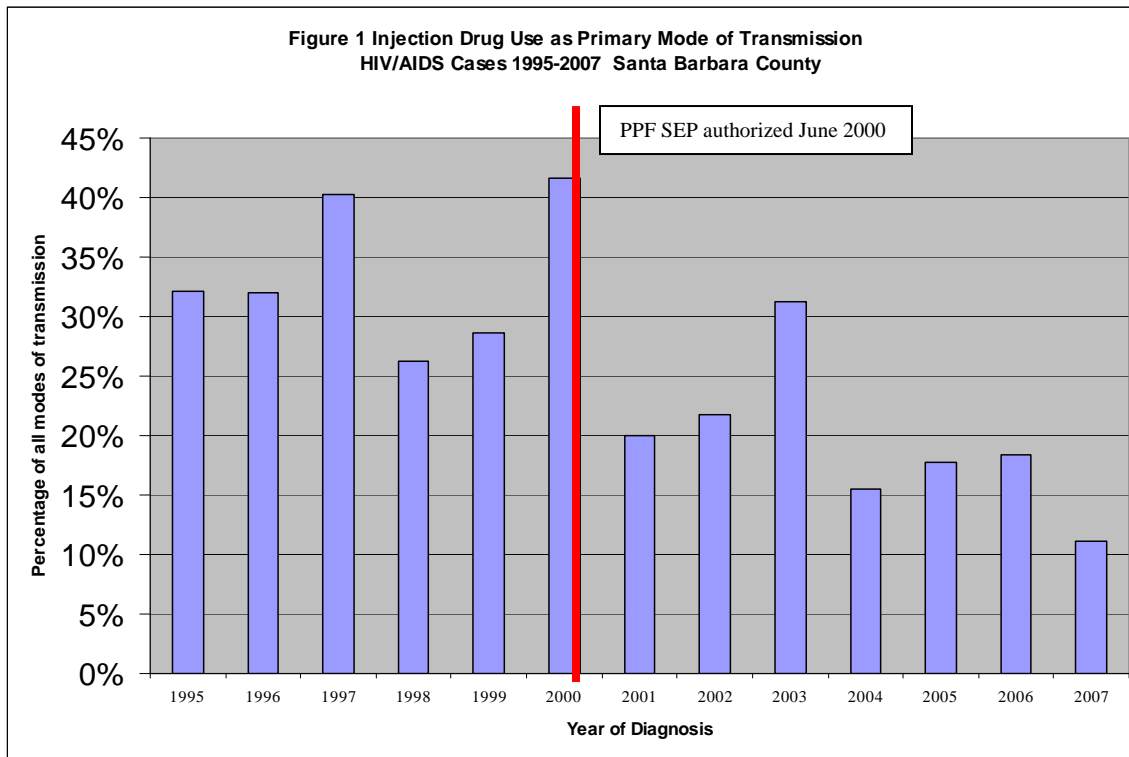
Authored by:

Dan Reid, Program Administrator

Attachment A
**The Right Outfit Syringe Exchange Program 2008 Annual Report
Santa Barbara County**

Introduction

The Right Outfit Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) was established in 2000 as a collaboration between the Pacific Pride Foundation, the community, and the Public Health Department. The goal of the program is to reduce the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis A, B and C. In 1997, a report to Congress concluded that needle exchange programs can be an effective component of a comprehensive strategy to prevent HIV and other blood-borne infectious diseases in communities that choose to include themⁱ. The results of this and other research led the National Institutes of Health Consensus Panel on HIV Prevention to state that: "An impressive body of evidence suggests powerful effects from needle exchange programs...Studies show reduction in risk behavior as high as 80%, with estimates of a 30% or greater reduction of HIV in IDUs"ⁱⁱ. IDUs is an abbreviation for injection drug users.



Injection Drug Use and HIV/AIDS

Figure 1 above depicts the mode of transmission for reported HIV and AIDS cases in Santa Barbara County based upon date of diagnosis in each calendar year. AIDS case reporting has been in effect since the late 1980's while HIV did not become reportable until 2002. The information shows that over the last seven years, Injection Drug Use (IDU) as a mode of transmission has declined from 42% to 11%. June of 2000 was when the Pacific Pride Foundation Syringe Exchange Program was authorized.

2007 SEP Data Findings

The following information is based on data that was collected from participants in the local syringe exchange program during 2007 and entered into a specialized database for analysis.

- 814 unique individuals accessed The Right Outfit in 2007;
- A total of 51,867 contaminated needles were collected and properly disposed of while only 50,081 were distributed. This represents a reduction of 1,786 in the street supplies of needles.
- Of those accessing The Right Outfit, 71% were male and 29% were female with the average age for both genders approximately 38 years old,

- Race/ethnicity for Syringe Exchange Program clients: almost 2/3 were non-Hispanic white and about 1/3 were Hispanic.
- Two-thirds of the exchanges took place at the Santa Barbara location and one-third at the Santa Maria location. Currently syringe exchange hours are available five days a week in the Santa Barbara location and two days a week in the Santa Maria location.

Secondary goals of The Right Outfit are to provide education and referrals to individuals who engage in risky behaviors (sexual and injection-related), and to link clients to needed treatment and medical care.

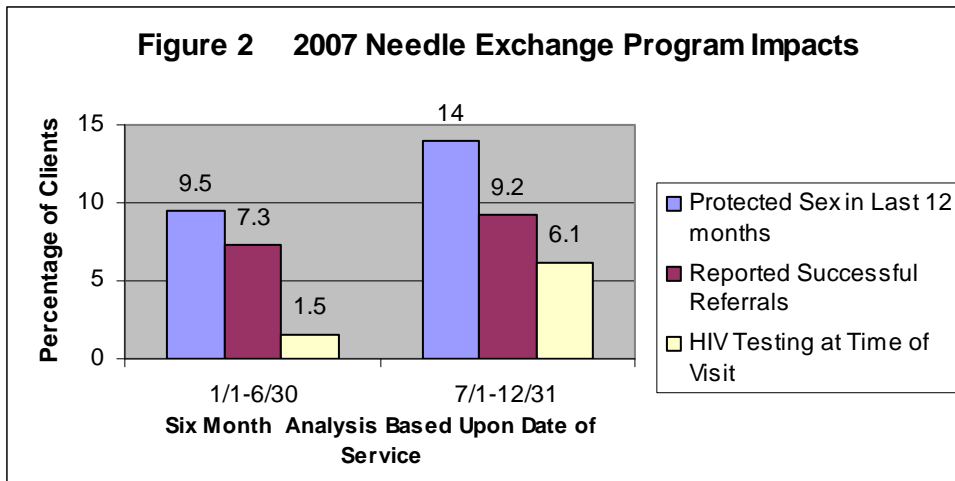


Figure 2 depicts program data analysis for the first six months of 2007 cohort SEP data as compared to the last six months. For prevention and care program outcomes: successful referrals, HIV testing at time of visit and use of protection during last sexual activity, all showed statistically significant improvements from the first six months to the latter six months of 2007.

Conclusion

Needle exchange programs save lives. When incorporated into a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy, these programs are effective Public Health interventions that reduce the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases. Research has proven that SEP programs do not encourage the use of illegal drugs. When linked with other services such as counseling and substance abuse treatment, SEP programs also assist clients in practicing safe sex, getting tested for HIV and breaking the cycle of substance abuse. Most notably, these programs are an effective and comparatively inexpensive method to prevent new HIV infections among one of the most at-risk populations.

ⁱ Shalala, DE. *Needle Exchange Programs in America: Review of Published Studies and Ongoing Research*. Report to the Committee on Appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. February 18, 1997

ⁱⁱ National Institutes of Health. Consensus Development Statement. Interventions to prevent HIV risk behaviors, February 11-13, 1997:7-8.