

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 04-01-03
Department Name: Public Health Department
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: 04-15-03 ONGOING-21 day term
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Elliot Schulman, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer and Medical Director

STAFF CONTACT: Matiana Grogan, Program Administrator ext. 5421

SUBJECT: Declaration of a Local Emergency Relating to the Spread of Hepatitis Infection and HIV Among Injection Drug Users, Their Sexual Partners, and Their Children.

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve the continued Local Emergency, Resolution Number 00-193, due to the spread and on-going epidemic of blood-borne viral hepatitis (Hepatitis B and C) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections among injection drug users and authorize Pacific Pride Foundation as the agent of the County to carry out the Syringe Exchange and Education Program.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with:

Goal No. II. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

Goal No. VII. A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On June 6, 2000, your Board approved a resolution #00-193 proclaiming the existence of a local emergency relative to transmission of Hepatitis B and C, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) through contaminated needles. The resolution provides that the local emergency shall continue in effect until its termination is proclaimed, by the Board of Supervisors, and that the need for the proclamation of a local emergency be reviewed every fourteen (14) days. Because of the cancellation of your Board's meeting on April 29, 2003, and in order to change the cycle of this action during April, the term of this agenda item is twenty-one (21) days, the maximum time allowed by legislation for continuation of the resolution.

The need for the declaration of a local emergency continues due to the ongoing threat to the health and safety of the residents of Santa Barbara County from the transmission of blood-borne viral Hepatitis B and C and HIV infections.

Mandates and Service Levels:

This is a non-mandated program. However, the California Health and Safety Code Sections 11364.7 allows for the Board of Supervisors to declare a local emergency, as defined in Government Code Section 8558, in order to authorize a Syringe Exchange and Education Program.

This recommendation does not increase service levels for the County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

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

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

Special Instructions:

None

Concurrence:

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services
Santa Barbara County Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board

Endorsement for Needle Exchange Programs from Other Groups:

The American Medical Association
The American Society of Addiction Medicine
The American Public Health Association
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
The American Bar Association
The United States Conference of Mayors
The National Academy of Science
The National Research Council
The National Commission on AIDS
The National Institute of Health Consensus Statement
The American Academy of Pediatrics