



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
Agenda Date: April 1, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Mouhanad Hammami, Director
Contact Info: Anne Carlisle, Manager, Disease Control and Prevention (805)681-5315
SUBJECT: Report on the Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Syringe Exchange Program (aka The Right Outfit) operated by the Pacific Pride Foundation

Signed by:
Mouhanad Hammami
CD0E0674C89245C...

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the report for Fiscal Year 2021-2023 on The Right Outfit Syringe Exchange Program (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the recommended action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is exempt pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because the action is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

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 (PPF). 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 PPF's The Right Outfit program as specified in AB 547 (Berg). PPF 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. PPF staff maintains records regarding the number of participants, their demographics, and the number of syringes distributed and collected. In addition, PPF maintains records on information, services, and referrals provided to participants. PPF staff worked with the Public Health Department Epidemiology and HIV/AIDS Services staff to prepare the report included as Attachment A.

PPF operates The Right Outfit Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) through its two fixed locations in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, and, during the reporting timeframe, outreach in Lompoc. In addition to one-on-one exchanges of new syringes for contaminated ones, Narcan distribution (provided by the Behavioral Wellness Department), bilingual program staff at all locations provide risk management and harm reduction education, substance abuse counseling, and needed referrals in English and Spanish. All clients received information on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and how to make an appointment for navigation. Six clients requested and received PrEP navigation (3% of unique clients).

Below are brief highlights of the report:

- The SEP served 459 unique clients
- All clients were offered the following:
 - Biohazard containers
 - Educational materials on Hep C, HIV, injection drug-use harm reduction, overdose prevention, sexually transmitted infections, and PrEP
- The syringe exchange program continued to see a decrease in unique clients served in FY 2021-2022 and FY 2022-2023
- Across both fiscal years, men comprised the majority of the unique clients served
- Race/ethnicity data was much better documented in the most recent fiscal years
- The most represented racial/ethnic group was White, making nearly half of unique clients self-identified, followed by Latino/Hispanic
- There was a slight increase in the number of Hispanic/Latino clients (from 34% to 39%) between the two fiscal years
- In the most recent fiscal year where data is available, the majority of unique clients were served at the Santa Maria location
- Since the overdose prevention program was implemented by the SEP on behalf of the Behavioral Wellness Department, 6454 Naloxone Kits were distributed and 317 known overdose reversals were reported
- The percentage of new HIV infections with injection drug use as a risk factor declined in 2020 and 2021, increased in 2022, and declined in 2023
- In 2023, 7% of 43 new HIV diagnoses had injection drug use as a risk factor among county residents
- No HIV patients were diagnosed through the SEP in FY 2019-2021

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

PPF operates the SEP and receives no county funding for syringe exchanges.

Special Instructions:

Please return a copy of the Minute Order to the PHD Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Fiscal Year 2021-2023 Syringe Exchange Program Report

Authored by:

Joy Jacobsen
Senior Epidemiologist
jkane@sbcphd.org