



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: October 6, 2015
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 1 hour
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH
Director(s) 805-681-5105
Contact Info: Susan Klein-Rothschild, MSW
805-681-5435

SUBJECT: Safe Drug Disposal

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Public Works

Sheriff's Department

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file this report regarding stakeholder outreach on the need for and options related to the safe disposal of unused household medications in Santa Barbara County.
- b) Direct the Public Health Department, with support from the Public Works and Sheriff departments, to draft an extended producer responsibility ordinance for a sustainable and convenient program for the safe disposal of unused household medications in Santa Barbara County.
- c) Determine that the above actions are organizational and administrative activities of government that are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Summary Text: On May 19, 2015, the Board of Supervisors received a report on the harmful impacts of the accumulation of unused pharmaceuticals on residents and the environment and the limitations of our current Operation Medicine Cabinet program. As a result of that presentation, the Board directed the Public Health Department to conduct stakeholder outreach, in collaboration with the Third District Office and the Public Works Department and return in October with recommendations for the establishment of a permanent and sustainably funded model to collect and safely dispose of unwanted medications from residents in Santa Barbara County. This Board letter and presentation meet the Board's direction.

Background:

Prescription medication, when used properly, enables us to live healthier and longer lives. The accumulation of unused household medication, however, increases the opportunity for misuse, abuse and diversion.

Santa Barbara County established the Operation Medicine Cabinet program in 2009 to provide receptacles for residents to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired household medication. This program provides bins for the collection of the medication at eight Sheriff Substations. The public use of the bins has exceeded current program capacity for both resources and locations. The bins are often full with medications, the number of bins does not meet the community's demand, and it requires four armed Sheriff Deputies to transport the waste collected to a facility in Long Beach. There is no funding for this program. In addition to program capacity issues, new Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) rules promulgated in September of 2014 include requirements that may decrease the number of bins at Sheriff Substations, as some of the stations may no longer meet new regulatory standards.

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 19, 2015, the Board directed the Public Health Department, in concert with the Third District Office and the Public Works Department, to conduct stakeholder outreach. The goal of the outreach was to obtain community feedback on the need for a safe drug disposal program and recommendations to make a program effective and successful in our local community. The Public Health Department scheduled two community meetings in July of 2015 in both North and South County, and extensive outreach was made to invite representatives from all sectors. The meetings were well attended and there was diverse representation from community agencies, health organizations, pharmacies, pharmaceutical manufacturers, sanitation districts, law enforcement and interested residents. (See Attachment A for a listing of organizations represented at these meetings.) A number of the participants indicated an interest in more information and follow-up. In addition to individuals, there was outreach to other organizations including a special meeting with Sanitation Agencies Management Association (July 8, 2015), Santa Maria Valley Fighting Back (August 20, 2015), and the Santa Barbara Medical Society (September 8, 2015).

Feedback across a broad spectrum of stakeholders consistently voiced a need for a sustainable and convenient drug disposal program in Santa Barbara County. An example of the passion on this issue was best demonstrated by a parent, Dianne Deras Kirkwood, who lost her nineteen year old son to use of prescriptions that belonged to a friend's terminally ill grandparent. Ms. Kirkwood attended a community meeting and wrote a statement on the importance of this issue and the need for a program to remove unused prescriptions (See Attachment B).

The stakeholders actively participated in the meetings and openly shared their perspectives. (See Attachment C for a comprehensive listing of comments received.) In the many community meetings and discussions on this topic there was agreement on a few key issues:

- There is a high level of interest and need for a more sustainable and convenient Safe Drug Disposal program in our community.
- There is a high level of agreement that drug producers should fund this type of program.
- There are complexities in the regulations that will guide the development of a local program.

In addition to areas of consensus, there were areas in which further analysis is needed. One of these areas pertains to the roles of pharmacies in a producer sponsored program. In 2014, the Disposal Act, codified in the Federal Code of Regulations Title 21, Part 1317, authorized pharmacies to become collection sites of controlled substances (previously restricted to law enforcement). Although the community indicated that collection bins should be located in more convenient locations, including where medications are dispensed at pharmacies, pharmacy representatives shared security and safety concerns about how such a program would be implemented in their local pharmacies. The California Board of Pharmacy has not yet finalized local rules and guidelines that will also impact our community.

Another area that requires more exploration relates to the methods of collection for pharmaceutical medications. There are advantages and disadvantages to various types of collections (e.g. collection bins, mail back envelopes and take back days). Multiple collection methods are likely needed to serve the needs of all target populations (e.g. seniors, long-term care facilities, youth, home-bound disabled).

There is considerable demand in Santa Barbara County for a permanent and reliable drug collection program that addresses the needs of residents across all areas of the County. Based on the community feedback received, we recommend that Santa Barbara County embark on the drafting of an extended producer responsibility drug disposal program through County ordinance. Many counties in California have passed extended producer responsibility pharmaceutical take back ordinances, including Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, and Santa Clara. Los Angeles and Santa Cruz County are also considering implementation. Subject to board direction, Public Health staff will draft an ordinance based on community stakeholder input, and analysis of other similar county ordinances. Throughout the process, Public Health staff will seek input from key stakeholders on the draft ordinance.

Establishment of a sustainable drug disposal program that effectively serves the entire county population will improve the health and safety of Santa Barbara County residents.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Fiscal Analysis:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the acceptance of this report.

Special Instructions:

Please email the Minute Order to phdcu@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

- A. Santa Barbara County Safe Drug Disposal Input Community Organizations Participating July – September 2015
- B. Statement from Community Member Dianne Deras Kirkwood
- C. Community Input on Safe Drug Disposal in Santa Barbara County
- D. Safe Drug Disposal Presentation

Authored by:

Susan Klein-Rothschild, MSW