



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**MANAGER'S REPORT**

DATE ISSUED: April 3, 2002

REPORT NO. 02-080

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
Agenda of April 9, 2002

SUBJECT: Clean Syringe Exchange Pilot Program Update

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

In the March 18, 2002 City of San Diego Council Docket, the issue of Declaring a Continued Local Health Emergency Due to the Spread of the Hepatitis C Virus and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) was included as Item-138. The action before City Council was to adopt Resolution number R-2002-1150, declaring the continued local health emergency for the purpose of implementing a one-year clean needle and syringe exchange program.

The item was pulled by a member of the public who voiced specific concerns regarding program implementation and the need for community participation and more information. After additional comments from the Mayor and Council members, the Manager was directed to prepare a progress report on the implementation process. This report responds to that direction.

DISCUSSION

During the November 27, 2001 City Council meeting the City Council voted 5-4 to accept the recommendations of the Clean Syringe Task Force outlined in their final report dated June 12, 2001. The recommendations included: 1) Declaring a local health emergency in the City of San Diego; and 2) Authorizing a privately funded one-year pilot clean syringe exchange program as described in the report. Additional direction was given that: 3) The initial "prevention kits" include no more than two syringes; 4) The program is not implemented within three blocks of any school; 5) The process for determining the two sites citywide be done only

with the concurrence of the Council member representing the District within which the site would be located; 6) Specific information be collected for the purposes of program evaluation; 7) The language on the proposed I.D. card be changed to state “This card has been issued to a participant in the City of San Diego’s Syringe Exchange Program”; and 8) The program managers return to the PS&NS Committee six months after implementation for an evaluation of the pilot sites and consideration of additional sites if warranted.

### **Pilot Program Elements**

The Task Force Final Report dated June 12, 2001, recommended specific elements for the pilot program that includes:

- ◆ Mobile sites;
- ◆ Laminated identification cards;
- ◆ On-site computers for real time documentation of participant characteristics and outcomes;
- ◆ Standardized scripts that describe guidelines for participation in the program and provide a consistent risk-reduction educational message;
- ◆ Risk reduction services and kits provided inside the vehicle;
- ◆ A variety of printed educational materials available for distribution to participants;
- ◆ Case management as an integral part of the services provided through the program, including active referrals into detoxification and recovery programs;
- ◆ Staff training in universal precautions following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations;
- ◆ Identification of external program evaluators to determine the effectiveness related to reducing sharing of injection equipment, services used by participants, and to the extent possible, trends in criminal activity at the sites;
- ◆ Selection of two areas of the City where drug use levels are high enough to warrant establishing a pilot program be evaluated for participation; and
- ◆ Establishment of cooperative relationships such as those observed in Baltimore and Los Angeles between pilot program and Police Department staff.

The above elements would be incorporated into the request for proposals and subsequent contract awarded by the program funder Alliance Healthcare Foundation and the California Endowment.

### **Program Implementation Activity**

The Alliance Healthcare Foundation released a request for proposal for the pilot program December 14, 2001 with responses due January 18, 2002. All of the elements detailed in the Clean Syringe Exchange Program Task Force report adopted by City Council were specifically addressed in the request for proposal which has been included as Attachment 1. For example, the issue of community participation is listed on page 8, letter “K”.

A fourteen member proposal review panel was assembled and met February 4, 2002 to review proposals. Members included representatives from the City, Clean Syringe Exchange Program Task Force and local experts. After specific items in question were clarified, Family Health Centers of San Diego was selected as the provider. It is anticipated that the contract documents will be finalized within the next two weeks. The independent program evaluator selection process is still underway and is expected to be finalized within the next three to four weeks. MOU's are being developed with providers of detoxification and treatment services to facilitate active referrals into these programs. Once all contracts are executed, a Program Facilitation Committee will be appointed by the City Manager to review the program status and other issues of relevance to the program implementation as outlined in the Clean Syringe Exchange Program Task Force final report and adopted by City Council. The program managers will return to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee six months after implementation for an evaluation of the pilot sites and consideration of additional sites, if warranted as directed by City Council.

Most recently, San Diego Police Department hosted a program implementation kick-off meeting that included Department representatives (Narcotics, Mid City, Crime Analysis), Community and Economic Development Department (Community Services Division), Alliance Healthcare Foundation, and the Family Health Centers team. Initially, meetings will be held monthly to facilitate a successful implementation process.

Respectfully submitted,

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Hank Cunningham, Community and  
Economic Development Department  
Director

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Approved: Bruce Herring, Deputy City  
Manager

HCC/BH/dff

Attachment: [Request for Proposals](#)