



City of Sacramento City Council

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915 I Street, Sacramento, CA, 95814
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Meeting Date: 8/30/2011

Report Type: Public Hearing

Title: Annual Report to the Sacramento City Council on Access to Clean Syringes Programs
(Noticed on 8-12-11)

Report ID: 2011-00688

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Conduct a public hearing and upon conclusion, receive and File the annual report on Access to Clean Syringes Programs in the City of Sacramento.

Contact: Michelle Heppner, Special Projects Manager, (916) 808-1226, Office of the City Manager

Presenter: Glennah Trochet M.D. Sacramento County Public Health Officer, (916) 875-5881

Department: City Manager

Division: Government Affairs

Dept ID: 02001021

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form
Joe Robinson
7/20/2011 11:21:17 AM

City Treasurer Review

Prior Council Financial Policy Approval or
Outside City Treasurer Scope
Russell Fehr
7/19/2011 11:22:19 AM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Michelle Heppner - 7/20/2011 8:45:33 AM

Assistant City Manager: Michelle Heppner - 7/20/2011 9:20:34 AM



Description/Analysis: This is the required annual report to the Sacramento City Council and Mayor regarding access to clean syringes in the City of Sacramento.

Issue: In November 2006, the Mayor and City Council approved the over-the-counter pharmacy sales of clean syringes in the City of Sacramento. And in January 2007 the City of Sacramento Mayor and City Council authorized the operation of clean syringe exchange programs in the City of Sacramento. The ordinances required an annual report detailing the status of the programs. This report includes information on blood borne infections associated with needle sharing activities, as well as a description of the implementation of both programs and known outcomes as of December, 2010.

In Sacramento, the use of illegal drugs and sharing of syringes has been the second most common way in which HIV is transmitted and the most common in which Hepatitis C is transmitted. Since the inception of the programs providing access to clean syringes in the city of Sacramento, the percentage of new cases of HIV infection due to injection drug use has dropped. In 2007 the percentage of new cases of HIV due to injection drug use was 20.4%, in 2008 it was 18.3%, in 2009 it was 16.3% and in 2010 the percentage was 12.7%.

It is estimated that 600,000 people in California are infected with Hepatitis C. If this is so, then we project that 22,100 people in Sacramento County must also be infected. In 2010 there were 2,047 new cases of Hepatitis C reported in Sacramento County. Of these, 771 cases reported in 2010 lived within the City of Sacramento limits. It is not possible to make the same analysis about drug use as a risk factor for hepatitis C because most of the cases reported are chronic disease that could have been established decades ago, and case reports for Hepatitis C are not as detailed as those for HIV infection.

Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP): Disease Prevention Demonstration Project (DPDP):

There are twenty four registered pharmacies that participated in the project in the City of Sacramento in 2010. The participants are thirteen Rite Aid pharmacies, four CVS pharmacies, four Leader pharmacies, and the Center for AIDS Research and Education Services (CARES) pharmacy.

The most recent survey conducted with the DPDP Pharmacies indicated that there have been few incidents/concerns attributable to the DPDP project. The incidents that have occurred have not deterred the pharmacies from continuing the program.

Pharmacies report selling between 10 and 500 syringes a month, with one pharmacy reporting sales of up to 2,500 syringes a month.

According to the responses received, pharmacists have referred customers to drug and alcohol services, provided verbal consultation to customers regarding appropriate needle use and treatment availability. The pharmacies also provide sharps containers to customers for purchase. Pursuant to the City of Sacramento ordinance requiring them to do so, they also take back used syringes. All pharmacies plan to continue the program through 2018, when the current legislation authorizing this program is due to expire.

Syringe Exchange Programs: Two Syringe Exchange programs continue to operate in the City of Sacramento. In 2010 Harm Reduction Services distributed 117,747 clean syringes to 3,317 clients. The number of syringes distributed decreased due to budgetary issues, but the number of clients remained the same. The program continues to provide counseling, referral for health, mental health and recovery services, and testing for HIV, Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted infections

Safer Alternatives thru Networking and Education (SANE) is the second syringe exchange program.

In calendar year 2010, SANE distributed 396,722 syringes during 1,036 exchange episodes. The program provides referral to health and mental health services, drug and alcohol recovery programs and other social services. In addition they educate on overdose prevention. They are seeing an increase in young people from affluent communities who started their drug use with prescription pain relievers and who then moved to injecting heroin. In addition, increasing numbers of participants report their status as veterans of the Iraq and/or Afghanistan wars.

Policy Considerations: The over-the-counter pharmacy sales of clean syringes, also known as the Disease Prevention Demonstration Program, (DPDP) was scheduled to sunset in 2010. The legislature and Governor Schwarzenegger continued the program through 2018. Both needle exchange programs authorized in the City of Sacramento have taken back used syringes from non-drug users such as people with diabetes, as a courtesy service. Both programs have noticed a significant decrease in requests for disposal of used syringes since the Sacramento City ordinance that requires sellers of syringes to take back used syringes went into effect. Sacramento County staff worked with pharmacies enrolled in the DPDP to ensure that they were educated and implemented the ordinance.

Environmental Considerations: None

Sustainability: None

Commission/Committee Action: None

Rationale for Recommendation: This item is informational. No action is requested.

Financial Considerations: None

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None