

Minutes for Syringe Advisory Board
November 26, 2018

Members Present: Judy Sousa, Sarah Kerr, Aaron Ostrom, Dr. Donald Baird, Sgt. Leonard LaFrance, Greg Sparks Ex-Officio

Members Absent: Rachel Waldman

Others Present: Michele Stephens, Director of Public Health, and Anna Owings-Heidrick, Senior Health Education Specialist

Co-Chair Sarah Kerr called the meeting to order:

1. Approved Minutes of October 22, 2018 meeting.
2. Presentation and Discussion with Michele Stephens, Director of Public Health, Humboldt County
 - 2012 County approved the use of mobile outreach for syringe exchange
 - Currently 2 outreach workers, will be adding 2 more and another van
 - Increase of Hepatitis was primary reason for initiating SEP
 - CDPH/others recommend Needs Based exchange to insure a clean needle for every use
 - Public Health utilizes a Modified Needs Based program-they may limit those who fail to consistently bring back needles; 40 max; provide condoms, safe injection supply kits
 - Provide counseling, housing assistance, OD prevention
 - 3 kiosks in Eureka and in process for Garberville and Hoopa-don't have funding capacity to put them everywhere they are needed
 - Have collected 655 lbs. of syringes since kiosks were placed
 - Aaron asked about clean-up efforts and policy on disposal containers-they encourage use of them
 - Aaron talked about 200 needles under bridge in Hoopa 3 weeks ago
 - Anna discussed the Client Intake Form
 - Dr. Baird: 12 weeks of treatment for Hepatitis C has a 95% cure rate
 - Discussion about the close working relationship of Public Health and HACHR
 - Sarah noted that as a committee we have covered Public Health and HACHR operations would now like to focus on 1 item at each meeting for solutions
 - Dr. Baird would like to see public bathrooms/restaurants have syringe containers just like airports do currently
3. Sarah and Judy will work to establish schedule of agenda items
4. Next Meeting: 4:00 PM, December 17, due to Holiday scheduling