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