



Santa Cruz County Syringe Services Program Advisory Commission

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<https://bit.ly/SSP-Program>

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, July 12, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Hybrid: Virtual and Physical: 1400 Emeline Ave, Bldg. K, Rm 206

PRESENT: Steve Plumb (1st District), Damon Bruder (3rd District), Eric Sturm (4th District), Joe Hernandez (2nd District), Sarina King (5th District)

EXCUSED: none

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Rahshan Williams (Program Coordinator), Socorro Gutierrez (Health Services Manager), Jennifer Herrera (Assistant Health Services Agency (HSA) Director), Nicky Meza (Administrative Aide), Megan Holland (Administrative Services Manager)

GUESTS:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions:

Meeting convened at 6:00 PM.

1.1 Introduced new Commissioner, Sarina King from the 5th District.

2. Review and Approve April 12, 2022, Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve April Minutes

Motion/Second: Sturm/Hernandez

Motion passed unanimously

Motion to approve June Minutes

Motion/Second: Sturm/Hernandez

Motion passed unanimously

3. Public Comment: none

4. Program Updates- Program Staff:

4.1 Williams reviewed the current activities of the SSP Program. San Lorenzo/Benchlands kiosks are out of order due to misuse. They are reaching out to jurisdictions to gauge interest and potential locations for additional kiosks. They are working on analysis of individual kiosk usage month over month. SSP is offering smoking as a harm reduction tool, i.e.: an alternative to syringes. They have purchased a new pipe for heroin use, based on participant interest. This pipe is available through the CA SSP Clearinghouse. Williams investigated color-coding/syringe tagging as was a suggestion brought up by the Commission. California Department of Public Health

(CDPH) was contacted for information on this. There are no marked syringes available at the Clearinghouse. There may be a manufacturer in Europe who may be able to fulfill this request, but the program would have to investigate the cost. The Commission had questions around which kiosks in the locations mentioned, were out of order. They also inquired if HRC distributed smoking kits as well and Williams confirmed that they do. Herrera reviewed the program's report back to the board on 6/28/22 regarding the utilization of existing solid waste resources to develop a systematic response to syringe collection. SSP recommended to the board that they accept and file their report and provide the board their recommendations. Commission commented that Health Services Agency (HSA) needs clarity from the board on what they need to respond to regarding this report back. Commissioners inquired if 911 is aware that they can refer calls they receive regarding syringe litter to the My Santa Cruz app. SSP program will investigate this information. There were questions surrounding the emphasis on installing 8 new kiosks and why they were provided before the analysis and staff is still waiting on that clarification. Commission questioned where the My Santa Cruz app is being advertised and Williams confirmed there are posters out in both English and Spanish. The Commission suggested that this also be put on their Facebook page.

5. Focus Area Updates

5.1 Update from Community Engagement Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

Commission is going to do public engagement starting with having this next meeting take place outside at Benchlands, behind the County building.

5.2 Biennial report continued discussion

Chair Bruder suggested that each of them writes their own report and/or review past minutes to give input on what they think should be included in the report. This report should be finalized by September.

5.3 Research and discuss federal perspective on syringe exchange

Motion to table this topic to August meeting

Motion/Second: Plumb/Sturm

Motion passed unanimously

6. New Business/Action Items:

6.1. Vote for next meeting location, virtual or in-person (AB 361)

Motion to not approve AB 361 and hold in-person meeting outside at Benchlands (behind County building) and to default back to 1400 Emeline and hybrid if necessary.

Motion/Second: Hernandez/Plumb

Motion passed unanimously

7. Topics for Future Meetings/Action Items:

7.1 Commission to prepare questions for the new Resource Planner IV in Public Works for a future invite to our Commission meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion/Second: Plumb/Sturm

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Submitted by Nicole Meza (*Administrative Aide*)