



# Santa Cruz County Syringe Services Program Advisory Commission

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

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, August 9, 2022  
TIME: 6:00 PM  
LOCATION: 701 Ocean Street, Behind County Building/Courthouse  
PRESENT: Damon Bruder (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Eric Sturm (4<sup>th</sup> District), Joe Hernandez (2<sup>nd</sup> District),  
Sarina King (5<sup>th</sup> District)  
EXCUSED: Steve Plumb (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Rahshan Williams (Program Coordinator), Socorro Gutierrez (Health Services  
Manager), Emily Chung (Public Health Director), Nicky Meza (Administrative Aide),  
Megan Holland (Administrative Services Manager)  
GUESTS:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions:  
Meeting convened at 6:06 PM.
2. Review and Approve July 12, 2022, Meeting Minutes:  
**Motion to approve July Minutes**  
Motion/Second: King/Hernandez  
**Motion passed unanimously**
3. Correspondence:
4. Public Comment: none
5. Elect new Vice Chair:  
**Motion to nominate Commissioner Sturm to be Vice Chair**  
Motion/Second: Hernandez/King  
**Motion passed unanimously**
6. Program Updates- Program Staff:  
6.1. Williams provided program updates. Downtown Streets Team, Save Our Shores and County Road Crews continue to collect syringe litter and send SSP monthly reports on their collection. Program outreach efforts in Santa Cruz: SSP supports HCV testing efforts in collaboration with the Homeless Persons Health Project (HHPH) and the Harm Reduction Coalition along with conducting tent to tent outreach that includes supply distribution and syringe collection/disposal education. Outreach efforts and HCV testing support in Watsonville are taking place at the following places: Salvation Army on Monday afternoons, the Pajaro River levee on Mondays and Thursdays, Loaves and Fishes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays organizations and at the Ramsey Slough trails on

Fridays. Williams reviewed the percentages of their participants and shared some participants' experiences. The Commission had questions regarding what qualified as syringe litter. Williams clarified that it is the syringes themselves that count as litter and not the parts that go with them. Gutierrez reviewed the 8/23/22 report to the Board which is a continuation of the June 28<sup>th</sup> report back on leveraging resources and improving overall litter efforts.

Presentation slides will be made available.

7. Focus Area Updates:

7.1. Update from Community Engagement Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

Discussed today's meeting and the success of coming to where the community is by doing the meeting near Benchlands. Sturm discussed that he would love for our Commission to have future meetings in the valley and Watsonville to ensure equity.

7.2. Research and discuss Federal perspective on syringe exchange

**Motion to table this topic to the October meeting**

Motion/Second: Sturm/Hernandez

**Motion passed unanimously**

7.3. Commission question for Resource Planner IV/Public Works

**Motion to table this topic to the October meeting**

Motion/Second: Sturm/Hernandez

**Motion passed unanimously**

7.4. Biennial Report Continued Discussion

Sturm reached out to the County's Commissions' Coordinator and was provided a copy of another Commission's report as an example. Sturm suggested that the Commissioners take excerpts from previous meeting minutes and add to them. Ideas/contributions will be provided to Nicky Meza (Admin Aide) to be given to Vice Chair Sturm. Public Health admin staff provided Sturm a rough draft of the Biennial report to add to and use as a starting point.

8. New Business/Action Items

8.1. Vote for Next Meeting Location, Virtual or In-Person (AB 361)

**Motion to Resume Hybrid Meeting with physical location and virtual component**

Motion/Second: Sturm/King

**Motion passed unanimously**

7. Topics for Future Meetings/Action Items:

8. Adjournment

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting**

Motion/Second: Sturm/King

**Motion passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Submitted by Nicole Meza (*Administrative Aide*)