



# Santa Cruz County Syringe Services Program Advisory Commission

1060 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
P: (831) 454-4623 F: (831) 454-4488 TTY/TDD 711  
[hsaphadmin@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:hsaphadmin@santacruzcounty.us)  
<https://bit.ly/SSP-Program>

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 2, 2021  
TIME: 6:00 PM  
LOCATION: Remote Meeting  
PRESENT: Steve Plumb (1<sup>st</sup> District), Damon Bruder (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Eric Sturm (4<sup>th</sup> District), Patty King (At Large)  
EXCUSED: Jim Hart (2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Rahshan Williams (Program Coordinator), Socorro Gutierrez (Health Services Manager), Jennifer Herrera (Assistant Health Services Agency (HSA) Director), Nicole Meza (Administrative Aide), Megan Holland (Administrative Services Manager)  
GUESTS: None

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions:  
Meeting convened at 6:03PM.
2. Review and Approve September 14, 2021, Meeting Minutes:  
**Motion to approve minutes**  
Motion/Second: King/Plumb  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
3. Program Updates:  
Williams reviewed September monthly reporting in 2021 vs. 2020. SSP continues to work with the City of Watsonville to improve community syringe disposal. HIV and HCV tests are available as of Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and will be done on Fridays at the Emeline exchange. They are continuing to work to offer that service at the Watsonville exchange. Commission had concerns regarding how many syringes were collected and the inaccuracy of data collected as syringe collection is based on weight, not on actual syringes collected. Commission also had questions regarding where data on the number of needle sticks that occur from syringe litter is reported. Chair Bruder shared that he knows who tracks that data and will follow up on that.  
  
3.1 The Board of Supervisors has directed SSP to collaborate with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Information Services Department (ISD) on implementing the MySCCounty App to report syringe litter in unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. They were to jointly report back on December 7, 2021 but will postpone that update until February 15, 2022. The Commission had questions around how well this app is being publicized and express interest in helping to get the word out.

Presentation slides will be made available.

4. Continuing Business Items:

4.1 Public Works Follow Up

Public Works is actively recruiting to replace Tim Goncharoff but has not yet hired anyone.

4.2 Public Engagement

Chair Bruder discussed wanting to have more public involvement in the Commission meetings. Staff member Meza also shared that Public Health has conducted some outreach to other agencies to recruit new members to fill the two vacancies. Chair Bruder proposed that each Commissioner take turns attending the Board of Supervisor's meetings to talk about the SSP Commission and raise public interest and encourage applications to join the Commission. He also tasked Commissioners Plumb and Sturm to brainstorm ways to encourage public involvement and attendance to meetings.

4.3 Assembly Bill 1344, State Department of Public Health: Needle and Syringe Exchange Services

This bill exempts local syringe programs from having to adhere with the California Environmental Quality Act to conduct an Environmental Impact Report. The Commission questioned how this impacts our program. Williams and Gutierrez confirmed it does not directly impact the SSP Program.

4.4 Next Meeting Location (AB 361)

Gutierrez announced this new legislation, a provision of the Brown Act, that provides teleconferencing rules. This amendment adds flexibility to allow for continual use of modified teleconferencing during a declared state of emergency. Commission to vote on this legislation at the next meeting in December.

Presentation slides will be made available.

5. Public Comment: None

6. New Business/Action Items:

7. Topics for Future Meetings & Action Items

7.1 Follow up on DPW replacement for Tim Goncharoff, Resource Planner IV.

7.2 Follow up with Commissioners Plumb and Sturm on idea for public engagement.

7.3 Vice Chair King to make a list of questions regarding kiosk syringe collection from Sharps Solutions and Department of Public Works.

7.4 Commission to vote on AB 361 document for next meeting location.

8. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting**

Motion/Second: King/Plumb

**Motion passed unanimously**

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

Submitted by Nicole Meza (*Administrative Aide*)