

Staff report on preparation for
August 23rd County Board of
Supervisors item

County SSP Advisory Commission

8/9/2022, 6PM-7:30PM

Presented by Socorro Gutierrez, Health Services Manager

Review of 8/23 report to the Board

Summary: The report to the Board is a continuation of the June 28, 2022, report back on leveraging resources and improving overall litter efforts. At this meeting, the Board voted to continue the item to the second Board meeting in August 2022, directing HSA to report back on the identification of placement for 8 additional syringe disposal kiosks to be installed and managed by the County and data on syringes collected through the public kiosks and through community partners (specifically, Downtown Streets Team, Save Our Shores, and the City of Santa Cruz Parks & Recreation).

*Board memo is in draft form

- Recommended Actions
 1. Accept and file a continued report back from the Health Services Agency on the Syringe Services Program, as directed by the Board on June 28, 2022; and
 2. Direct the Board Chair to write a letter to local jurisdictions encouraging partnership with the County to implement a coordinated system of syringe litter response.
- Background
 - Provide an overview of existing syringe disposal kiosks
 - Provide an overview of syringe litter data being collected
- Analysis
 - Review data on syringes collected through the public kiosks and through community partners
 - Provide recommendations for additional syringe disposal kiosks placements
 - HSA recommendations
 - Board Chair to write a letter to local jurisdictions to encourage partnership with the County to support syringe litter response activities.

County Board of Supervisor Directives to the County SSP 2019-2020	Outcomes
Develop a plan to manage secondary exchange; only allow up to 2 secondary exchanges per visit	Met
Collaborate with CDPH to complete a study of syringe litter in Santa Cruz County, and report back to the Board	Met
Develop ordinance to develop the seven-member SSP Advisory Commission	Met
Coordinate outreach to syringe litter organizations and SSP listening sessions	Met
Implement SSP Advisory Commission	Met
Develop recommendations to improve syringe litter reporting and response	Met
Return with a contract or contract amendment with providers to collect syringes in “hot spots” throughout the community	Met
Coordinate and present a multi-disciplinary injection drug use study session for the Board	Met
Add two additional hours to Santa Cruz and Watsonville exchange sites	In Process
Coordinate installation and payment of syringe kiosks in other jurisdictions, per letter from the Board Chair to the local jurisdictions	Ongoing
Improve system to monitor referrals from SSP to Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) services	Ongoing
Regular community outreach, including Grant Park neighbors	Ongoing
When applying for funding, HSA directed to operationalize in a manner consistent with the previous action and policy by the Board	Ongoing

Additional Directives since June 2021

Date	Board Directive	Status
6/8/2021	<p>DIRECTED the Health Services Agency, Department of Public Works (DPW) and Information Services Department to continue to collaborate on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) implementing the My Santa Cruz County App as a tool to address public syringe litter reporting in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County; b) leveraging existing solid waste disposal resources and improving overall litter efforts of the County of Santa Cruz and Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville; and c) jointly report back on progress by December 7, 2021 	Complete 2/15/2022
2/15/2022	Return to the Board on or before June 28, 2022, with a plan to address previous direction provided on June 8, 2021, to use our existing solid waste resources to come up with a systemic response to syringe collection, by either expanding contracts with current providers and/or releasing an RFP or RFQ to solicit such services, including a potential on-demand response component.	Complete 6/28/2022
6/28/2022	<p>Supervisor Coonerty stated the following:</p> <p><i>“Supervisor McPherson and I would like to recommend to continue this item to the second meeting in August. Unfortunately, this report was not responsive to previous Board direction. In the meantime, he and I will meet with the HSA director to go over specific concerns.</i></p> <p><i>When the item returns in August, we would like HSA to identify 8 additional disposal kiosks to be installed and managed by the County.</i></p> <p><i>And also that the August report should contain, per previous Board direction, the number of needles collected in the kiosks by the Downtown Streets Team, Save our Shores, the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation. All of them keep this data and we’ve asked that they be in these reports going forward, and we’d like to see it in the report when it comes back in August.”</i></p>	Pending

Next Steps for August BOS report-back

- BOS report-back scheduled for August 23, 2022
- Preparation:
 - HSA leadership met with Supervisor Coonerty and Supervisor McPherson
 - SSP continues to request data from partners and conducting analysis
 - SSP has provided recommendations for syringe disposal kiosk placements
 - SSP continues to engage with stakeholders and receive feedback
- Ongoing Tasks:
 - Continue to track Board directives
 - Continue to improve data on syringes collected through public kiosks and community partners
 - Continue to assess and recommend syringe disposal kiosk placements

Additional feedback
from the SSP
Advisory
Commission?