

HSA, Public Health



Public Health

County of Santa Cruz Syringe Services Program (SSP) Advisory Commission Program Updates

October 11, 2022

Current Activities

Goals: Prevent disease, link to treatment and services, improve public safety

- Watsonville Exchange move
- CRSP Reports
- Encampment syringe disposal and outreach
- CAB/Watsonville Works
- Harm Reduction Conference

Watsonville Exchange Move

- **Move from 1430 Suite A to Suite B has not been completed**
- **Primary exchange staff member is attending conference**
- **Coverage of shifts will be smoother for staff familiar with Suite A location and procedures**

The City of Santa Cruz began sharing its Community Request for Service Portal (CRSP) Needle Count Reports

- The data we received are monthly totals from September 2018–August 2022
- We should continue to receive monthly updates
- We are sharing monthly syringe distribution and collection #s with the City of Santa Cruz

SL Park/Benchlands and City Overlook Camps

- **Continuing to work with the City of Santa Cruz for alternate placement of kiosk located in Benchlands encampment**
- **We have placed a kiosk at the City Overlook encampment**
- **We are continuing our work with HPHP to plan and support outreach and HCV testing as the population shifts from the Benchlands encampment to the City Overlook**

Community Action Board/Watsonville Works Collaboration

- **We are finalizing our contract with CAB**
- **California Harm Reduction Initiative (CHRI) grant funded**
- **Three primary activities that would be completed in partnership and/or led by a CAB staff member hired for this work.**
 1. In-depth interviews with persons who used drugs (PWUD) to assess barriers to access of SSP services including syringe disposal
 2. Survey and documentation of Watsonville syringe litter to determine “hotspots”
 3. “Promotora/o” (educator and advocate) with lived experience hired for the work by CAB and informed by activities 1 and 2 to continue outreach and education to PWUD and the broader community

National Harm Reduction Conference San Juan, Puerto Rico

- **San Juan is one of several municipalities in Puerto Rico that sustained minimal damage from Hurricane Fiona**
- **3 CARE Team Integrated Services SSP staff attending (Health Program Manager, Program Coordinator, Health Program Specialist)**
- **The biennial event is the only conference of its kind in the United States**

Conference objectives include:

- Providing safe spaces for the exchange of ideas and cutting-edge practices that reduce harms associated with drug use.
- Creating networking opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds committed to dismantling the racialized policies that underwrite and perpetuate oppression.
- Challenging stigmatizing narratives about people who use drugs by supporting their leadership development and exposing social inequities driven by structural violence and discrimination

Improving our program

We look forward to providing information on what was learned at the conference at the next SSP Commission Meeting

Thank You

