

City of San Diego  
Clean Syringe Exchange Program Facilitation Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting

February 6, 2003

12:00 p.m.  
Civic Center Plaza  
1200 Third Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
San Diego, CA

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Jim Dunford, at 12:05 p.m.

Members Present:

Jim Dunford

Mike Franz

Staajabu Heshimu, Alternate for Debra Fischle-Faulk

Sandy Keaton, Alternate for Cynthia Burke

Robert Lewis, Alternate for Fran Butler-Cohen

Linda Lloyd

Cesar Solis

Jim Varnadore

Staff Present:

Staajabu Heshimu

Guests Present:

Martin Chevalier

Kathy Evans-Calderwood

Robyn Heister

Adrian Kwiatkowski

Monica Pelaez

L. A. Starr

Lesley Davis

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 5, 2002**

The minutes of the December 5, 2002 meeting were as submitted and will be posted to the City web page.

## **3. Status Reports**

- a. **Family Health Centers of San Diego – Fran Butler-Cohen/Bob Lewis**  
Bob Lewis reported that the North Park site had been selected and is to open for services on Friday, February 14. A “dry run” with no exchange services is planned for February 7. The CSEP at this site is to operate each Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. FHCS is minimizing the presence of the van as much as possible by not having it on the street or visible from the nearby North Park branch library. Mr. Lewis distributed the most recent weekly statistics from the downtown site. He said the program continues to receive more needles than are distributed to the 211 unduplicated clients. The program is being utilized by people disposing of used needles who do not know how otherwise to legally dispose of them.
- b. **San Diego Police Department – Lt. Cesar Solis**  
Lt. Solis announced that the San Diego Police Department’s Western Avenue command is aware of the new site and start dates in North Park.
- c. **San Diego Association of Governments – Dr. Cynthia Burke**  
Sandy Keaton said the the client follow-up rate is 80% and the evaluators considered that to be excellent.
- d. **City Manager’s Office – Staajabu Heshimu**  
Staa Heshimu reported that the City Council continues to approve the emergency ordinance, which allows the CSEP to operate, by a 6-3 vote. The Council asked their Land Use and Housing subcommittee to consider neighborhood citing regulations after receiving the City Attorney’s report that there currently is none applicable to the CSEP. It is not clear what role, if any, the Facilitation Committee will play with the LU&H Committee.

## **4. Alliance Healthcare Foundation Video – Linda Lloyd**

Linda Lloyd explained that because the media had been showing a B-roll (background film) that did not accurately reflect the way the CSEP is operating in San Diego, Alliance Healthcare Foundation produced a more accurate video

and distributed it to local media, including print media. The video, which shows actual client intake, was shown to the committee. The video also scans the educational materials on safer sex, preventing overdose, hygiene and bleach kits, etc. that are available to CSEP clients.

In response to a request at the last Committee meeting, Dr. Lloyd distributed a two-page handout: 1) the SEP objectives from their contract with FHCSO, and 2) the Program Evaluation from the June 21, 2001 Task Force Report.

## **5. Community Impact Subcommittee Report**

Dr. Dunford reported on the Community Impact Subcommittee meeting of January 30, 2003 and referred to his notes, which were distributed at the meeting. He said the goal is to take the ideas heard at the meeting and hammer them into something useful and responsive to the community. Mr. Varnadore prepared a draft survey that was also distributed at the meeting. He stated the purpose of a survey would be to measure people's feelings about the program. He asked the committee to consider how to go forward with the survey as a measurement tool.

Ms. Keaton said that it is complicated to measure subjective feelings, e.g., defining "fear". She said it is important, too, to have baseline data, which would be a problem in North Park where we have already started the program.

Ms. Heshimu suggested that the Facilitation Committee's purpose is not to change the fundamentals of the pilot program as it currently exists. She believes the committee can influence some changes to the extent the program operator can accommodate those changes within their existing contract. The committee must be prepared, however, at the conclusion of the pilot to make recommendations to the City Manager and City Council on how the program should operate if there is to be any continuation or expansion in San Diego. Ms. Heshimu thinks that a measure of subjective feelings would be appropriate if it measured people's concerns both before the program started and after it was underway.

Mr. Varnadore suggested that Alliance Healthcare Foundation could pay for implementation of the survey and reiterated his concern that the initial secrecy of the CSEP had continuing negative impact on people's feelings.

Adrian Kwiatkowski responded that there was no secrecy, that the Community Planning Council which is made up of the chairs of all the City's Community Planning Committees was invited to participate on the original Task Force; they

failed to respond to that invitation. Mr. Varnadore said this was true to the chagrin of many of the CPC members.

Lt. Solis stated that the SDPD sometimes will conduct a quick informal survey when they are aware of an issue in a community. The surveys are designed to see how people in a target area feel. These surveys are not scientific and may even be skewed. Still, they provide meaningful information on what people are thinking and feeling.

Dr. Lloyd commented that the Task Force did consider community concerns and felt it was sufficient to allow for community members to express their concerns about the program directly to the program operator, and having the operator track community concerns and complaints.

Brief discussion ensued about when the pilot program would end. Dr. Dunford suggested the pilot end when the evaluators have sufficient data to complete a final report. FHCS D has a one-year contract; Alliance Healthcare Foundation is currently looking for 2<sup>nd</sup> year funding which is not in place at this time.

It was asked and answered that the Facilitation Committee will prepare intermittent reports to the City Council and a final report with recommendations on if and how the CSEP would continue beyond the pilot.

Mr. Varnadore asked everyone to think about the draft survey or other tools to measure community impact, to consider the SDPD model and to be prepared to discuss at the March committee meeting. It was suggested that committee members send their comment to Dr. Dunford by February 20 so he can compile them for discussion.

## **6. Roundtable/Public Comment**

Martin Chevalier said that he doesn't believe a significant percentage of drug addicts will be rehabilitated as a result of the CSEP. He added that unlike Oakland, Chicago and other big cities "we care about our neighborhoods" in San Diego. He felt that San Diego will become more like these others cities as a result of programs like the CSEP. Mr. Chevalier suggested that San Diego would be better served by lobbying to get a bill to the state legislature to allow needle exchange via pharmacies.

Kathy Evans-Calderwood said she has experience conducting surveys, that a recent survey on alcohol rehabilitation facilities showed that people don't mind a licensed clinic in the neighborhood if there is no publicity and the facility operates

discreetly. She said we should be about improving the image of the CSEP and putting out positive messages.

**7. Next Meeting – March 6, 2003**

The March meeting will take place as scheduled.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.