

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

May 15, 2003

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 12:07 p.m.

Members Present:

Jim Dunford
Robert Lewis, Alternate for Fran Butler-Cohen
Debra Fischle-Faulk
Mike Franz
Sandy Keaton, Alternate for Cynthia Burke
Jack Monger, Alternate for Linda Lloyd
Cesar Solis
Jim Varnadore

Staff Present:

Lisa Foster
Staajabu Heshimu

Guests Present:

Susan Baer
Mateo Camarillo
Martin Chevalier
Donna Dow
Kathy Evans-Calderwood
Dane Grace
Vicki Granowitz
Jean Hayes (?)
Adrian Kwiatkowski
Don Leichtling
Catherine McCullough
Marie Pel (?)
Holly Sandy

Don Starr
Laura Starr
Claire Robinson
Edward Robinson
Maria Whisenant
Todd (Last name unreadable)

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 3, 2003

The minutes of the April 2, 2003 meeting were approved with one change. Under Agenda Item 3a, Family Health Centers' Status Report, the sentence is changed to read "During this period the downtown program averaged 38-40 visits per day and the North Park program has grown to serving 11 clients as of the last (March 28) report period." The corrected minutes 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 distributed the most recent statistics from the East Village and North Park sites. He summarized by saying that program utilization downtown is consistent and there has been a slow increase in the number of people utilizing the service in North Park. Mr. Lewis responded to a question about how "Repeat Clients" are defined and counted. He said some clients use the service every week, some have only used it once, and some are in treatment and cannot use the service. In response to a question about what constitutes a "Referral," Mr. Lewis said this covers a range of actions from giving the client a name and telephone number to driving them to a resource facility. Jim Varnadore asked if Friday was a good (productive) day for the services. Mr. Lewis responded that the day and time was recommended by the Greater North Park Planning Committee (GNPPC) to minimize neighborhood impact. A discussion about where the direction to provide services on Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. came from. He said the program can adjust to circumstances. Dr. Dunford said if members of the GNPPC have suggestions for a different day or time to please offer it for consideration at Tuesday's meeting.

b. San Diego Police Department – Lt. Cesar Solis

Lt. Solis said that in response to his request for community input he is getting calls and looking into those issues brought to his attention. In addition, Western Division is already aware of some complaints including one about a motor home parking in the area. SDPD is working to have it removed from the private property where it is parked. Lt. Solis said it has not been verified that the motor home belongs to a CSEP client though some complainants have said they have witnessed interaction between clients and the individual in the motor home. He said 4-6 people have approached him with complaints since the April 3 Facilitation Committee meeting. He said the complaints are usually of trespassing, 5150s or homeless using the library restrooms and that the complainants feel they are related to the CSEP. In response to a question from Mr. Camarillo, Lt. Solis said he has not received any complaints about the hours of operation of the CSEP van or that it was operating outside of the established hours.

c. San Diego Association of Governments – Dr. Cynthia Burke/Sandy Keaton

Sandy Keaton said they have started the follow up interviews at the North Park site. Between one and three are completed each Friday.

d. City Manager's Office

Staajabu Heshimu reported that she, the City Council's Land Use and Housing Committee consultant and the City Manager's liaison have been discussing how to proceed with the Council's January 7 request to prepare guidelines for establishing and noticing future CSEP sites. It is agreed that the Council expects the Facilitation Committee to make recommendations to the LU&H Committee. What is not clear is whether the Committee should make recommendations to the Land Development Code, Municipal Code or some other City regulations. There is also a question as to when LU&H would expect to see the proposed guidelines. Ms. Heshimu said she expects to come to conclusion on this prior to the next meeting of the Facilitation Committee.

4. Community Impact Subcommittee Report

Dr. Susan Baer of SDSU said she had been approached by Mr. Lewis on behalf of the Facilitation Committee to put together a survey on three major aspects of the CSEP: 1) Nature of support/opposition to the pilot and a permanent program, 2)

Sources and extent of communications before the pilot and during it, and 3) impact of the surrounding community. She would propose 75 close-ended questions asked in a demographic telephone survey with a sample size of 400 adults (18 years and older). She said data gathering could be performed in the Social Science Research Lab and that she and possibly a political science (**professor, student?**) could analyze results and write a report for publication in an academic journal.

MOTION: THAT THE COMMITTEE MOVE FORWARD TO ALLOW SDSU TO CONDUCT THE SURVEY AS OUTLINED BY DR. BAER. FISCHLE-FAULK/VARNADORE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

During discussion there were a number of suggestions of different ways to conduct the survey, as well as where to conduct it. Mr. Lewis said the cost of the survey as designed by Dr. Baer was approximately \$8,000, which Family Health Centers would be willing to pay for out of program savings. Design changes that increase the cost of the survey would have to be paid for by someone else.

Before the vote on the motion, Vicki Granowitz asked that we clarify who is the City Heights representative to the Facilitation Committee as both Mr. Varnadore and Kathy Evans-Calderwood were seated at the table. Ms. Evas-Calderwood said as Vice Chair of the City Heights Area Planning Committee (CHAPC), she expected to replace Mr. Varnadore on the Committee. Ms. Heshimu said that she had not received a request from the CHAPC Chair, Michael Sprague, asking the Manager to replace Mr. Varnadore. Until the City Manager makes a different appointment, Mr. Varnadore remains a member of the Committee.

Ms. Evans-Calderwood asked if the survey could be extended to City Heights. Dr. Baer said she was told the purpose of the survey was to determine the impact on the North Park community.

After the motion passed unanimously, Dr. Dunford said he would set up a meeting with Dr. Baer to determine how to proceed.

5. Roundtable/Public Comment

Mr. Camarillo invited all the entities that represent the CSEP to attend and respond to questions at the May 20 meeting of the Greater North Park Planning Committee, 6:30 p.m. at North Park Christian Fellowship Church, 2901 North Park Way. The syringe exchange program will be on the agenda for discussion.

Mr. Varnadore acknowledged Emergency Medical Services Week and Dr. Dunford's role as the City's Medical Advisor.

Dr. Dunford said he had written an Op-Ed piece on the CSEP which would be submitted to the *Union Tribune*. He said clean needle exchange is already recognized as an effective strategy for combating Hepatitis C by the Surgeon General and others. Because this is a public health issue, it belongs to the County, not the City.

Mr. Camarillo said he agreed with Dr. Dunford and asked what is being done to engage the County of San Diego to accept its responsibility; shouldn't that be a function of the Facilitation Committee.

Dr. Dunford said he had been in conversation with the County's former Health Director who said he couldn't touch this and keep his job; the Board of Supervisor's philosophy is at issue here.

Ms. Evans-Calderwood showed a dirty needle she found in front of her home and said we could do a better job of asking the community what they want and that she was convinced the CSEP slated for City Heights was cancelled because of those who are lobbying so hard against the program. She said she would be willing to conduct a survey in City Heights herself.

A guest asked if CSEP clients are tested for HIV and Hepatitis C on site, doesn't that make the coach a medical facility? Mr. Lewis said no testing is done on site; clients are referred for testing. Another guest recommended a moratorium on the pilot program until the survey is completed.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is June 5, 2003 as scheduled.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.