

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

June 5, 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 Chair Jim Dunford at 12:07 p.m.

Members Present:

Jim Dunford  
Cynthia Burke  
Debra Fischle-Faulk  
Mike Franz  
Linda Lloyd  
Cesar Solis  
Jim Varnadore

Staff Present:

Staajabu Heshimu

Guests Present:

Mateo Camarillo  
Martin Chevalier  
Donna Dow  
Kathy Evans-Calderwood  
Diane Grace  
Tim Graham  
Vicki Granowitz  
Matthew Irwin  
Sandy Keaton  
Adrian Kwiatkowski  
Connie McGaughy  
Jack Monger  
Nicole Palmer  
Michael Sprague  
Laura Starr

Dr. Dunford recognized Dr. Cynthia Burke for her recent promotion to Director of the Criminal Justice Research Division of the San Diego Association of Governments. He asked for self-introductions of all present.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of May 15, 2003**

The Minutes of the May 15, 2003 meeting were approved as written and will be posted to the City web site.

**3. Status Reports**

a. Family Health Centers of San Diego – Fran Butler-Cohen/Robert Lewis Adrian Kwiatkowski, Director of Community and Government Relations for Family Health Centers of San Diego, distributed and discussed the Weekly Mobile Unit Service Utilization Reports for the East Village and North Park Clean Syringe Exchange Program sites. He reported that the site in North Park is serving a different clientele than that served in East Village. The North Park clients are younger, newer users and including some body-builders, a hard core group of stable recreational users. In East Village, the program is serving an older population of mostly lifelong drug users. Mr. Kwiatkowski said that demographic information continues to be collected at both sites. He also reported that the North Park program still has seen no clients in the first hour of operation, i.e., from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., that the busiest time is during the lunch period from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. He speculated that the program would serve more people if services were available later, e.g., until 2:00 p.m. Mr. Kwiatkowski responded to questions about his report.

b. San Diego Police Department – Lt. Cesar Solis

Lt. Solis reported that in response to complaints about one individual they are specifically interested in and one situation that was reported at the library, SDPD is developing information and monitoring the situations. He said that if the only violation of law is the possession of a syringe during CSEP hours, SDPD's protocol is to not arrest. However, if there are any other violations such as possession of illegal drugs, SDPD will arrest the individual. Lt. Solis mentioned several letters of complaint that had been received by SDPD and forwarded to Community Services staff. Copies of the letters were given to Dr. Dunford. Jim Varnadore suggested that Dr. Dunford summarize the letters of complaint to protect the confidentiality of the complainants and share the summaries with members of the Facilitation Committee.

c. SANDAG – Dr. Cynthia Burke

Dr. Burke reported that SANDAG has completed all pre- and post-interviews at the East Village program site. They are currently conducting follow up on 22 clients of the North Park site. She reported that the evaluators maintain a confidentiality agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services and are in compliance with the new HIPPA law.

d. City Manager's Office – Staajabu Heshimu

Ms. Heshimu suggested that a subcommittee of the Facilitation Committee be formed to begin work on a new City Ordinance to regulate the CSEP in the event the Committee recommends and the City Council approves an extension or expansion of the program after the Pilot Program is concluded.

Volunteering to serve on the subcommittee were Jim Dunford, Jim Varnadore and Debra Fischle-Faulk. It was also suggested that someone, perhaps Adrian Kwiatkowski, from Family Health Centers should be a part of the subcommittee and that the affected communities – East Village, North Park and City Heights – be invited to participate. Ms. Heshimu is to contact the planning groups in each of these communities to begin the process of establishing the subcommittee.

MOTION: that the Facilitation Committee establish a subcommittee tasked to draft a new City Ordinance detailing the rules and regulations under which any future Clean Syringe Exchange Program would operate. The Ordinance would include siting and notifying guidelines. FRANZ/LLOYD – passed unanimously.

**4. Community Impact Subcommittee – Discussion**

- a. North Park Survey – Professor Susan Baer of San Diego State University said that she could produce a scientific survey of the impact of the CSEP in North Park in the SDSU Social Science Lab for about \$8,500 (offered by Family Health Centers from program savings). The survey seems to be a “Go” with negotiations ongoing.
- b. East Village Focus Group – Ms. Heshimu said that other priorities at her desk had stalled work on this project that was suggested at the last meeting of the Community Impact subcommittee. She expected to be able to work on it in the next several weeks and will report progress at the next Committee meeting.

**5. Roundtable/Public Comment**

Michael Sprague commented that some of the confusion about whether or not the CSEP falls under land use regulations probably stems from the fact the planning committees were asked to appoint representatives to the Facilitation Committee. That should not have happened, he said, because planning committees are formed to deal with land use issues and this is clearly not one.

Mr. Varnadore agreed with Mr. Spague but suggested that planning committees were contacted because of their visibility to public officials.

Donna Dow asked why the CSEP wasn't "out" now that the Greater North Park Planning Committee had voted against it. Mateo Camarillo commented that the planning groups are advisory as is the Facilitation Committee which is carrying out a charge given to it by the the City Manager. The decision on the future of the CSEP is up to the City Council.

A representative from the PTA (Ms. Strange?) said that she was present at the meeting because parents had been contacting their organization about their concerns. She said she had done a web search on needle exchange programs and asked why the San Diego program was not housed in a health center and why needles were not checked for HIV and Hepatitis C. She also commented that the research available on needle exchange programs was not well represented in the Final Task Force Report. She presented the chair with a report entitled "Syringe Exchange and AB 136: The Dynamics of Local Consideration in Six California Communities" and suggested that Committees members review the report by visiting the Kaiser Family Foundation web site at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

Another guest commented about the CSEP operating during summer months while children were out of school and asked "who will run clients away after they leave the van? She said she witnessed drug use after clients visited the CSEP van and while children were nearby.

**6. Next Meeting – July 3, 2003**

The next meeting of the Facilitation Committee is scheduled for July 3, 2003.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.