

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

July 31, 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 at 12:07 p.m. Dr. Dunford asked for self-introductions of those present.

Members Present:

Mateo Camarillo (briefly)  
Jim Dunford  
Debra Fischle-Faulk  
Mike Franz  
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  
Donna Dow  
Kathy Evans-Calderwood  
Adrian Kwiatkowski  
Jack Monger  
Monica Pelaez  
Lyle Rocky Neptun

## **2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of June 5, 2003**

There was discussion as to whether the minutes accurately reflected the demographics of clients using the North Park program as reported in the FHCS status reports. It was decided that the minutes were correct and they were approved as written.

## **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 remains consistent while the number of people utilizing the service in North Park is increasing. Mr. Lewis reported that the motor home was late leaving North Park one session when staff had difficulty retracting the awning; nonetheless, services stopped at 1:00 p.m. In response to questions he said (1) staff can comfortably serve 40 clients per session; at that number there is a smooth flow in processing people in and out and (2) that the high numbers of syringes taken in were received by people using program services to dispose of syringes used for legal purposes. Mr. Varnadore comments that, though not a part of the project design, this is important information, identifying a need in the community for a safe way to dispose of (legally) used syringes.

### **b. San Diego Police Department – Lt. Cesar Solis**

Lt. Solis reported that SDPD continues to receive complaints about individuals in a van and motor home who reportedly showed up in the neighborhood around the same time the CSEP site opened in North Park. Officers have responded to these calls but missed seeing the targets of the complaints. He said there are a group of individuals occupying vans and motor homes in the area; they are suspicious but SDPD doesn't know what they are doing. While officers are trying to chase them out of the area, they have not so far identified arrestable offenses. The complainants believe these individuals know one another and feel they are connected to the CSEP. Monica Peleaz, a representative of Council District 3, said that the Council office had received complaints of a homeless woman who started appearing in the neighborhood about the same time the exchange program opened in North Park; an investigation found no connection to the CSEP.

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

Sandy Keaton distributed and discussed a Client Intake Data Summary providing information on new program clients. She also distributed a map showing by percentages where clients using the East Village site resided. Ms. Keaton said that Mr. Camarillo wants to discuss the information and statistics that are being captured to better understand these based on the kinds of questions that are coming from North Park residents. She said that data collected includes client demographics and services clients are utilizing, not simply the number of needles that are collected. She added that staff is also engaged in case management and tracking which allows the program evaluators to tell what happened after a referral.

In response to a question, Ms. Keaton said that every client does not receive an Initial Harm Reduction Kit including two clean syringes. These are given only to first-time clients who come to the program with no syringes. All clients receive what is called the Ongoing Harm Reduction Kit which contains no syringes. Ms. Keaton was asked if information on how many of the North Park program clients are living on the streets could be determined. She said this information would be provided in future reports.

d. **City Manager's Office**

Staajabu Heshimu reported that as requested by the Facilitation Committee at the last meeting, she has contacted the East Village Association, City Heights Area Planning Committee and Greater North Park Planning Committee presidents to solicit names of representatives to the subcommittee that will be drafting a new ordinance to establish the rules and regulations of an extended or expanded CSEP. Dr. Dunford, Debra Fischle-Faulk and a representative from FHCSO will also serve on the subcommittee. Dr. Dunford asked if any other Facilitation Committee member had an interest in serving to make the number on the subcommittee seven, an odd number.

MOTION: to leave the Ordinance Drafting Subcommittee at six (6), the three (3) Facilitation Committee members plus the three (3) community representatives if they choose to participate. Dunford/Fischle-Faulk – passed unanimously.

Mr. Varnadore asked that the subcommittee meetings be noticed so that the interested public can attend. Dr. Dunford and Ms. Fischle-Faulk noted that they would be on vacation through the end of August.

#### **4. Community Impact Subcommittee**

- a. North Park Survey – Mr. Lewis said that FHCS D is close to signing an agreement with Dr. Susan Baer and San Diego State University to conduct the North Park survey. Dr. Baer has been out of town but Mr. Lewis hopes to schedule a meeting in August to brainstorm the kinds of information that is to be collected and specific questions people want to see asked on the survey. He would like to have a draft at the September meeting.
- b. East Village Focus Group – Ms. Heshimu reported that staff has put together a list of downtown organizations whose participation in the focus group will be solicited. She has not been able to contact Leslie Wade to set a date or secure a location. Adrian Kwiatkowski suggested that the format should be to provide information and then questions and answers. Mr. Lewis said the forum should be a tool to receive structured feedback we can use to assess the program.

#### **5. Roundtable/Public Comment**

Dr. Dunford expressed appreciation to Mr. Varnadore for his service on the Facilitation Committee as did others. This is Mr. Varnadore's last meeting as a member of the Committee. Mr. Varnadore reminded that the Committee will need a new Vice Chair.

Kathy Evans-Calderwood expressed frustration that the new representative for City Heights had not yet been appointed. Ms. Heshimu said that she had just recently received the nomination and that this had been forwarded to the City Manager's Office. She expected the appointment to be made before the September meeting.

Martin Chevalier suggested that everyone visit the East Village program site during hours of operation on Thursday evenings. He said if that represents "success" the North Park community will not tolerate that. Mr. Chevalier also commented on the "beat up" motor homes with handicapped stickers parked in front of the Cabrillo Hospital's drug and alcohol rehabilitation unit. He said those

motor homes had the same characteristics as the ones they are now seeing in North Park.

Ms. Fischle-Faulk noted recent news articles that the ballpark construction is displacing the downtown homeless who are dispersing to other areas of the city and creating a significant impact in communities that are not used to seeing them.

Rocky Neptun said that the motor homes had been present for a decade and this is not new to North Park. Donna Dow commented that the group at University Park is different from the motor homes that are nearer to the program site. Mr. Lewis said community members have reported that they were calling SDPD to complain about individuals in vans and motor homes prior to the opening of the CSEP opening but had gotten no response from the police.

Ms. Pelaez asked how many complaints the police department has received and how recent are these. Lt. Solis said they are receiving one or two calls per month.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is September 4, 2003 as scheduled.

#### **7. Adjournment**

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