

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

September 4, 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. Dr. Dunford asked for self-introductions of those present.

Members Present:

Mateo Camarillo

Jim Dunford

Kathy Evans-Calderwood, Alternate for Lyle Neptun

Debra Fischle-Faulk

Mike Franz

Cynthia Burke

Robert Lewis, Alternate for Fran Butler-Cohen

Cesar Solis

Staff Present:

Staajabu Heshimu

Guests Present:

Martin Chevalier

Tim Graham

Joel Harrison

Adrian Kwiatkowski

Nicole Palmer

Laura A. Starr

Jim Varnadore

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of July 31, 2003

The minutes of the meeting of July 31, 2003 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 program sites. He noted that no needles were exchanged the last week in August due to the City Council recess, i.e., because the Council could not vote, the health emergency declaration lapsed and was not in effect the last week in August. Mr. Lewis reported that the number of clients is stabilizing at both the East Village and North Park sites, i.e., the staff is not seeing many new clients.

b. San Diego Police Department – Lt. Cesar Solis

Lt. Cesar Solis reported that SDPD had received several complaints from one complainant about the North Park syringe exchange program; they also received one call in support. He said the new Police Chief was on board and that he looked forward to briefing him on the CSEP. Lt. Solis also announced that the Chief was making appointments with community members to discuss various City issues and that he would be happy to facilitate such meetings for anyone interested in discussing the CSEP with the Police Chief.

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

Mateo Camarillo asked (during FHCSA's status report) about follow-up evaluations. Dr. Cynthia Burke explained that by design follow-ups are conducted two months after the initial intake for each client. Mr. Camarillo asked if there was any effort to ensure diversity in the pool. Dr. Burke said that evaluations are conducted with 100% of clients that are located. She reported that follow-up evaluations were conducted with 80% of East Village program clients, which she said is a very good number considering it is not always easy to locate clients two months after their initial intake. She responded "yes" to a question on whether we can report by ethnicity.

d. City Manager's Office – Staajabu Heshimu

Staajabu Heshimu reported that she had received no responses to date from the organizations contacted to appoint representatives to the Ordinance drafting subcommittee; she said she would follow up with telephone calls. Ms. Heshimu asked that members of the Facilitation Committee representing those organizations help facilitate the appointments by reminding their presidents. Debra Fischle-Faulk and Jim Varnadore questioned whether Leslie Wade was still active with the East Village Association and suggested we try to get a replacement for her. Ms. Heshimu emphasized that it is important to have representation from East Village on the Facilitation Committee, Ordinance drafting subcommittee as well as to move the downtown focus group project along. It was agreed that the present members of the subcommittee could meet to discuss a plan of action.

4. Community Impact Subcommittee

a. North Park Survey – Mr. Lewis reported that he facilitated the August 27 meeting on the North Park Survey. He summarized the meeting as follows: Dr. Susan Baer gave an overview of the process and discussed the kinds of data that could be collected. She asked for and received input from those present. The next steps are to draft the survey and present it to either the full Facilitation Committee or to the Community Impact Subcommittee. Dr. Baer has classes on Thursdays so she cannot join us at the Facilitation Committee's regular meeting. However, it is possible that someone from the SDSU Social Science Research Institute could represent her; or, she could make herself available to meet again with the Community Impact Subcommittee, hopefully in October. Dr. Dunford expressed his preference to have someone available at Facilitation Committee meeting to respond to questions about the draft survey.

Mr. Camarillo restated his position that many people do not have telephones and that the survey must be augmented to accommodate them. Dr. Joel Harrison offered that with a random digit dialing methodology, the surveys will reach cell phones and fax machines as well as residential and business telephones, that given modern technology, random digit dialing will not guarantee a random distribution of respondents. He suggested that letters be sent ahead of the survey because research shows this will increase peoples' willingness to participate and, therefore, increase the response rate. Dr Harrison also said there are negatives and

positives associated with fixed sites as well. Martin Chevalier recommended that at least 10 of the 75 questions should pertain to people's desire to live within a certain distance of a CSEP site. There was other discussion, and suggestions and questions on how the survey would or should be conducted. Mr. Lewis reminded that resources for the survey are very limited and we must rely on the experience of the researchers to employ a methodology that will render valid data.

Jim Varnadore provided a history on the purpose of the survey - to obtain information about the impact of the CSEP on communities from the community's viewpoint. He suggested that all questions and comments be presented to Dr. Baer from the Committee and not by individuals. Ms. Fischle-Faulk suggested the Chair email Dr. Baer regarding today's conversation. She invited others who have something to say to email Ms. Heshimu so that all comments could be sent along to Dr. Baer.

b. East Village Focus Group – Ms. Heshimu reported that she has not been successful in contacting Leslie Wade who was to spearhead this project. It was suggested that she contact the East Village Association and the Council District 2 office to help identify a time and place for the meeting.

5. Election of Vice Chair

As there were no nominations or volunteers for the office or Vice-Chair, Dr. Dunford asked that this item be carried forward to the next agenda.

6. Roundtable/Public Comment

Mr. Chevalier recommended that everyone use the internet to review the "damage needle exchange programs do to communities"; resources include the cities of Vancouver, Oakland and Los Angeles.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is October 2, 2003 as scheduled.

8. Adjournment

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