

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

OCTOBER 2, 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 12:12 p.m. Dr. Dunford asked for self-introductions of those present.

Members Present:

Cynthia Burke
Martin Chevalier, Alternate for Mateo Camarillo
Jim Dunford
Kathy Evans-Calderwood, Alternate for Lyle Neptun
Debra Fischle-Faulk
Mike Franz
Cesar Solis

Staff Present:

Lisa Foster
Staajabu Heshimu

Guests Present:

Lora Folsom
Joel Harrison
Chrystal Martinez
Monica Pelaez
Judy Strang (for Diane Grace)
Jim Varnadore

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of September 4, 2003

The minutes were approved with the following corrections: 1) page three, last paragraph, add to Dr. Harrison's comments: "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."; 2) page three, last paragraph: "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."; and 3) page four, first paragraph: "Mr." Lewis, not "Mrs." ☺

3. Status Reports

a. Family Health Centers of San Diego – Fran Butler-Cohen/Bob Lewis

There was no representative of FHCSO present; Mr. Lewis is away at a conference. In response to a question about the latest statistics from the CSEP sites, Ms. Heshimu said she would forward a copy via email to the e-group.

b. San Diego Police Department – Lt. Cesar Solis

Lt. Solis reported that SDPD continues to receive complaints from individuals who believe the North Park CSEP is attracting new criminal behavior to the neighborhood. There have been four such complaints since the last report. Two separate complaints were about a white van and alleged involvement in narcotics trafficking. There was also a complaint about the same individual (connected to the white van) "buzzing", i.e., riding a bicycle too close, to a woman. SDPD officers contacted the man but found no reason to arrest. A third complaint was about individuals biking from the CSEP site to the library, possibly to "shoot up" in the bathroom. There have been similar complaints about this in the past, but SDPD has not observed anyone doing this. The fourth complaint was of someone in a Winnebago, parked at the Bank of America building, allegedly selling narcotics to CSEP clients; SDPD is monitoring this situation.

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

Dr. Cynthia Burke said SANDAG continues to conduct intakes and evaluations; the North Park data collection is moving along according to plan.

d. **City Manager's Office**

Staajabu Heshimu gave background information on the logistics of the first Ordinance Drafting Subcommittee meeting, which was convened just prior to today's Facilitation Committee meeting. Debra Fischle-Faulk is chairing the meetings as Dr. Dunford has a permanent conflict at 10:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month. Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster will be the subcommittee's lead staff and the Ordinance Drafting Subcommittee Reports will be a separate Facilitation Committee meeting agenda item in the future.

Ms. Fischle-Faulk discussed what happened at the meeting, saying that a draft of a new proposed ordinance will be brought back to the entire Facilitation Committee for discussion; the next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. before the November 6 Facilitation Committee meeting.

Ms. Foster discussed the guidelines she had prepared in advance of the subcommittee meeting, which was added to by the group. She stated that her office's research found only one ordinance, in the City of Washington which was not too helpful as it contained nothing about siting or noticing syringe exchange sites. No ordinances were identified in any California cities. Ms. Foster reported that the focus at this meeting was on how to do the noticing and added that eventually we will get to operations.

Mr. Chevalier said the discussion shows we need to consider options other than the pilot model and cited underground exchange programs where needles are exchanged in private homes as an example; he said his interest is in protecting neighborhoods from the impact of needle exchange in public places. Dr. Dunford explained that we must consider the breadth of the Facilitation Committee's mission: is it just to study the pilot model or do we want to take on more, i.e., report on the pilot model as well as study other options. If the latter, he suggested we schedule a discussion to determine what that would entail. Dr. Harrison suggested holding up on the drafting of an ordinance until the outcome of SB 774 is known.

4. Community Impact Subcommittee

- a. North Park Survey – Dr. Dunford responded to several questions raised at the last meeting based on a conversation he had with Dr. Susan Baer. He said that: 1) according to Census 2000, for owner-occupied properties in North Park, 98.8% of the homes have telephones; for rental properties, 98.0% have telephones. It is not possible to determine the number of Latino families that do not have telephones in North Park, but if you know, e.g., that 10% of Latinos don't have telephones nationwide, you can weight your survey accordingly; 2) sending letters to residents in advance of the telephone survey will improve the response rate and will cost more money; 3) weighting the survey in favor of people who live closer to the CSEP site will cost more money but it is the researchers intent to do this; and 4) the survey will ask if a needle exchange program in the area is desirable, but the surveyors will not commit to ten (10) questions.

Dr. Joel Harrison commented that with random digital dialing the survey could end up with no one residing in the immediate area of the CSEP site. Dr. Baer needs a map of the North Park community, specifically of zip code 92104. Jim Varnadore commented that we should leave it to the expertise of Dr. Baer and the research team to design a valid survey.

- b. East Village Focus Group – Ms. Heshimu introduced Lora Folsom from the District 2 Council Office: Ms. Folsom is liaison to the CSEP. Ms. Heshimu said she would be working with Ms. Folsom and Don Mullen, who is the District 2 liaison to downtown, on making new appointments to the Facilitation Committee and the Ordinance Drafting Subcommittee, and on pulling together a downtown community forum on the CSEP.

5. Election of Vice Chair

Ms. Fischle-Faulk suggested that the Vice Chair should be a community member and Mr. Chevalier nominated Mateo Camarillo who represents the North Park community. In Mr. Camarillo's absence, the voice vote was unanimous for him to serve as Vice-Chair.

6. Roundtable/Public Comment

Ms. Evans-Calderwood announced that Mr. Neptun plans to resign from the Committee. She also reported that she had seen a sharp collection container in a gaming facility with a container and a posted sign saying "used syringes, please dispose of safely".

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George Wadja distributed a document from the website www.setfree; he also commented on the number of people in the county with AIDS.

Mr. Chevalier asked about a December 5th memo that said we would submit an evaluation of the CSEP to City Council in six (6) months. Ms. Heshimu responded that the report, prepared by SANDAG, is ready to go to Council. Mr. Varnadore commented that the Facilitation Committee must see the report before it goes to Council. Ms. Heshimu said she would send the report to Committee members prior to the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting is November 6, 2003 as scheduled.

8. Adjournment

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