

City of San Diego  
Clean Syringe Exchange Program Facilitation Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
April 1, 2004

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 12:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Jim Dunford  
Kathy Evans-Calderwood  
Debra Fischle-Faulk  
Mike Franz  
Sandy Keaton, Alternate for Cynthia Burke  
Robert Lewis, Alternate for Fran Butler-Cohen  
Linda Lloyd  
Michael Powers

Staff Present:

Lisa Foster  
Staajabu Heshimu

Guests Present:

Martin Chevalier  
Lora Folsom  
Joel Harrison  
Libba Jackson-D'Ambrosi  
Adrian Kwiatkowski  
Sgt. Mike Parga  
Jim Varnadore  
Larry Westfall

**2. Self-Introductions**

Dr. Dunford asked for self-introductions of those present.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of March 4, 2004**

The minutes were approved with two corrections: 1) Section 4.a. Status Reports – Family Health Centers of San Diego: “.....no exchange services offered the week of March 1 ....., and 2) Section 4.a. Status Reports – Family Health Centers of San Diego: ~~on some days because of the holidays~~. The corrected minutes will be posted on the City website.

### **4. Status Reports**

#### **a. Family Health Centers of San Diego – Bob Lewis**

Mr. Lewis distributed the latest utilization statistics reporting that during the week of March 25 the downtown exchange site had its highest number of visits ever. He said the program continues to enroll new clients even though they have stopped outreach and recruitment activities. In response to a question, Mr. Lewis said that serving 59 clients makes for a busy, busy night, however, staff has still managed to finish all tasks and start packing up at the 9:00 p.m. closing time. Dr. Dunford asked if staff continued to make all the requisite referrals to which Mr. Lewis responded “yes”.

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

Sgt. Mike Parga reported for Lt. Solis. He said there are no new reports (of criminal activity) from either exchange site. Dr. Dunford asked if SDPD conducted any special surveillance just because of the Clean Syringe Exchange Program. Sgt. Parga responded that officers are not targeting the area because of the CSEP, however, there has historically been a great deal of drug activity in the area.

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

Sandy Keaton reporting for Dr. Burke said that Dr. Burke is working on the final report and that they expect to meet the mid-May target date for completion. Ms. Heshimu asked if SDPD’s report would be a part of the final program evaluation. Ms. Keaton responded that Mr. Lewis, Dr. Burke and Lt. Solis had met and SDPD’s analysis would be included in SANDAG’s final report.

Mr. Chevalier asked about SANDAG’s follow-up goals, commenting that the number of clients interviewed as a percentage of the whole client base “is less than remarkable.” Ms. Keaton said they reached 80% of the goal

and that researchers generally consider reaching 75% of the goal “good”. She said they missed the goal only because they ran out of time in North Park to interview 75 clients (the goal number).

Mr. Varnadore asked about the distribution plan for the final report. Ms. Heshimu said the draft report would be distributed to CSEP Facilitation Committee members as soon as she received it so they could be prepared to make comments/give input at the June 3 Committee meeting. Mr. Varnadore asked whether the draft would be available to everyone. Ms. Keaton stated that SANDAG does not usually release their drafts to the public. Mr. Varnadore insisted that “those who had served with honor on the committee and as well had served with honor off the committee” should be allowed to review and comment on the draft. Dr. Lloyd suggested that the report is being prepared under a contract with Family Health Centers of San Diego which is in turn under contract to the Alliance Healthcare Foundation, but perhaps the draft could be distributed to those individuals who have attended Facilitation Committee meetings regularly. Dr. Dunford stated that he agreed, in the interest of inclusion. Mr. Lewis said that he will insist that every page of the report be marked “draft” and that the report will be a large document that likely cannot be handled electronically. There was some discussion about mailing costs and Ms. Fischle-Faulk suggested that those who were able could pick up the report from the CED offices. Mr. Varnadore volunteered to defray the costs of mailing if that will assure that all who should receive the draft will in fact receive the draft. Ms. Fischle-Faulk said that would not be necessary, that the department could arrange for the cost of postage. Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster commented that the City is under no legal obligation to distribute the draft. She agreed, however, that those who have consistently demonstrated an interest in the CSEP could be allowed to provide meaningful input. Ms. Foster emphasized that the draftreport should not be subject to mass distribution. Dr. Dunford asked if the final report would be an expanded version of the interim report the Committee has already seen. Ms. Keaton responded that the final is considerably larger than the interim. Dr. Dunford concluded by saying the draft of SANDAG’s final report will be shared with individuals who have consistently shown an interest in the CSEP, asking that the findings be kept confidential and not shared with organizations.

**d. City Manager’s Office**

Ms. Heshimu reported that the Mayor and City Council members received the Committee’s recommendation to allow the CSEP to continue operating while the final reports and recommendations were being prepared and

until the Council has made a decision. The item to continue the declaration of the health emergency was passed on the consent agenda, i.e., without discussion.

In response to a question about when the report/recommendation would be heard by the Council, Ms. Heshimu said she believes all the components will come together in a July/August timeframe and that the goal is to

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present the Committee's recommendation(s) before the City Council takes its summer recess early in August. She stated that she had spoken with mayoral assistant, Bill Baber, who said the Council calendar had not been prepared that far out. She also reported that Mr. Baber thought the Committee might be able to skip reporting to a Council Committee (either Public Safety and Neighborhood Services and/or Land Use and Housing).

Ms. Heshimu offered to draft a timeline of activities required before the Committee is ready for a Council presentation and to try to get a date certain from the Mayor's Office by the May Facilitation Committee meeting.

**e. City Attorney – Lisa Foster**

**1. Status of Draft Ordinance**

Deputy City Attorney Lisa Foster reported that she has received some comments on the draft ordinance since the last subcommittee meeting. She hopes that at today's meeting we can narrow down the areas we need to focus on. Currently, there are two working drafts, one that gives the City Council authority for CSEP site selection and one that gives that authority to the City Manager. Ms. Foster is recommending that only one version be presented to the Mayor and Council for approval and that the subcommittee can soon decide on which.

**5. Community Impact Subcommittee – Status Reports**

- a. North Park Survey – Mr. Lewis said the survey is underway, interviews are being conducted. Each interview is taking about 35 minutes, a little longer than the ½ hour that was projected. A few people called the Mr. Lewis after having taken the survey. Mr. Lewis surmises that the interviewers are advising the interviewees to call him if they want more information. In most cases, the callers live within a few blocks of the North Park exchange site but had no idea it was there.

Mr. Lewis assumes the researchers will notify him once the interviews are complete and the analysis begun. The contract calls for FHCSO to pay for

data collection but Drs. Baer and Hofstetter are providing the survey analysis pro bono; they are hoping to get a project they can publish. Ms. Fischle-Faulk asked when the interviews are expected to be completed. Mr. Lewis expected that will be the third week in April. He said the researchers asked for 90 days to do the analysis. Ms. Heshimu commented that receiving the analysis late in July would not meet our timeline goals. She said she will coax Dr. Hofstetter to hurry the analysis

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since he has opened the door by contacting her. Ms. Heshimu said Dr. Hofstetter wanted to ensure the Facilitation Committee that the delays in starting the interviews were not the fault of he and Dr. Baer.

Mr. Chevalier asked why the Facilitation Committee did not get to review the final survey. Ms. Heshimu said she believes it was finalized during the December-January holiday period, that she remembers seeing copies of email messages from Facilitation Committee members, SANDAG staff and community members that had gone back and forth while she was on vacation through January 9. She also noted that the Facilitation Committee did not meet at all in January. Dr. Dunford added that SDSU's Internal Review Board had the final say-so on the survey design, not the Facilitation Committee, and that the survey instrument will be a part of the final report and analysis.

- b. East Village Focus Group – Ms. Heshimu reminded that she was to draft a letter to East Village businesses and organizations seeking their comments on the community impact of the downtown CSEP, if any. She thanked Adrian Kwiatkowski for his assistance in conceptualizing the letter/questionnaire and apologized for not having yet had time to produce a draft for the Committee's review. She said she would email the draft to Facilitation Committee members prior to the May meeting. Dr. Dunford asked if the East Village Association was in the loop. Ms. Heshimu replied "yes" and said that Leslie Wade had asked for a copy of the draft Ordinance.

**6. New Business: Develop Recommendations to City Council for the future of Syringe Exchange in San Diego based on the Pilot Study**

Dr. Dunford said the Facilitation Committee must either support or reject the implementation of a permanent clean syringe exchange program in the City of San Diego in a manner similar to the pilot study design. He asked for suggestions on how the Committee should approach formulating recommendations. He asked if the program was of benefit and "how would we do it differently?"

Dr. Harrison said if the pilot program is doing a good job, perhaps a recommendation to increase the number of sites is in order, some of which are mobile and some fixed.

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Ms. Fischle-Faulk asked if the SANDAG report would address the number of beds available to CSEP clients who are referred to detoxification, that perhaps we need to talk about having designated beds.

Mr. Varnadore, responding to comments made by both Dr. Harrison and Ms. Fischle-Faulk, asked if we expanded the CSEP to a greater number of sites, would we have the requisite resources, would we then have to ask the County for more beds or for designated beds for CSEP referrals. Mr. Franz commented that in actuality, services are going in the opposite direction, i.e., toward fewer beds because of costs. Dr. Lloyd commented that having an adequate number of treatment slots is a program to most treatment programs. Mr. Franz said he expected that some treatment programs would be willing to work with us, that the 25% cut in program funding he expects this year could hit the general population first.

Ms. Heshimu offered that the Committee might consider the recommendation options using a decision-tree model. For example, the first question would be “is an exchange program worth continuing”. If the answer is no, the second question is “why not?” The Committee might or might not then suggest what other options the City could consider to abate the Hepatitis C epidemic that needle exchange was designed to address. If the answer to the first question is “yes”, the next question is “why” followed by the consideration of options like maintaining the pilot sites in their present form, modifying the programs or the sites, reducing or expanding the number of sites, etc.

Mr. Chevalier commented that former Governor Davis vetoed a proposal to provide clean needles in pharmacies and asked if anyone knew what Governor Schwarzenegger’s position is.

Dr. Dunford asked if the Committee could get the five questions SANDAG was asked to study? Ms. Keaton said she would provide them. Noting the hour and that the Ordinance-drafting Committee was to meet at 1:00 p.m. today, Dr. Dunford asked everyone to be prepared to work on the formulation of recommendations at the May meeting.

**7. Roundtable/Public Comment**

Mr. Kwiatkowski distributed Council District 3 election results and commented the Deputy Mayor Toni Atkins had won handily in all communities, including North Park where the CSEP is sited.

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**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is June 3, 2004 as scheduled.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:10 p.m.