

CITY OF SAN DIEGO
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 17, 2002

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Debra Fischle-Faulk, Community Services Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Clean Syringe Exchange Program - Downtown Site to Open

REFERENCE: Clean Syringe Exchange Program Task Force Final Report

On Thursday, July 18, 2002, the first of three planned Clean Syringe Exchange Program (CSEP) sites will open. The program will operate out of a mobile unit that will be parked on the Jerome's Furniture trailer parking lot at the Southeast corner of 15th and F Streets from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

This site was selected by the CSEP contractor, Family Health Centers of San Diego, and is supported by Council member Wear, the Downtown Partnership, East Village Association, and the San Diego Police Department. In accordance with the contractor's community outreach responsibilities, staff has talked with surrounding businesses to garner support for the project. In particular, the management of Smart and Final, which is directly across the street from the mobile site, has expressed support as has Jerome's Furniture president Jerry Navarra. At this time, we are unaware of any neighboring businesses or residents that oppose the location.

The CSEP mobile unit is expected to operate at this site every Thursday evening in accordance with guidelines recommended by the Clean Syringe Exchange Task Force and approved by the City Council. A Program Facilitation Committee that is to be appointed by the City Manager will monitor the pilot CSEP. Appointments to this committee will be completed by the end of this month with a first meeting to be convened in August 2002.

The San Diego Police Department has prepared a training video on the new CSEP that is being presented to officers beginning this week. Central division officers are scheduled to take a walk-through of the mobile unit this afternoon to familiarize themselves with program operations and meet the four (4) staff members. Family Health Centers of San Diego will hold an Open House for the community and media in the next few weeks. You will be invited to attend the Open House; however, if you would like a private tour of the facility on any Thursday evening, or if you have questions or comments, please contact Special Projects Manager Staajabu Heshimu at (619) 236-6635.

Page 2

Honorable Mayor and City Council

July 17, 2002

The new web page outlining the Clean Syringe Exchange Pilot Program is now available on the City's web site at www.sandiego.gov. The page provides an overview of the program, from the conditions that spurred its development to how it will be implemented. Detailed information serves to educate the public and dispel myths and misperceptions associated with such a program.

Debra Fischle-Faulk

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