

# NEEDLE EXCHANGE CONSULTATION

Health Department and G Street Neighbors

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

1. **SIGN-IN.** 28 persons registered their attendance

## 2. ADDITIONS TO MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

C.3. include drug treatment referral as impact of Needle Van

B.4. culture of acceptable drug use – Box asking to comment  
- will clarify at comment period of agenda

## 3. REPORTS BACK

**Nigel Turner** - Communicable Disease Control / Pierce County Health Dept 20 years into the AIDS epidemic. it is not controlled. Hepatitis B & C cases are lowered by Needle Exchanges that saves on public resources. whole county needs to strategize best use of resources. Best plan: make adjustments to fixed site. Later in meeting will respond to 3 main strategies identified at Nov. mtg.

**Dave Purchase** - Pt. Defiance AIDS Project (name of non-profit for Needle Van) Friday or Monday will have survey printed it will ask how did van visitor get there, where from aim: reduce traffic behavior will use live interviews to promote several points e.g., if zip code out of area: tell of delivery or other counties' programs reinforce rules of behavior added options to 24-hour line hand out business size 4-fold card information on 24hr resources sticky labels of 24hr info on wound care packets rules of research: systematic randomization 25% sample of van visitors once 50% of 125 or 160 people have been surveyed, able to report on trend at end of valid sampling, can report data 30 days expected for 50% mark goal is to learn N number Sue Biles Communicable Disease Surveillance / Pierce County Health Dept 12 pharmacies will sell needles no questions asked brochure in process to advertise state board of pharmacy involved to produce memo of understanding with pharmacies will contact 2 chains Walgreen & RiteAid, most open to suggestion pilot brochure with accurate info word of mouth does better assessed that stickers get word out better flyers already circulating with health service info Homeless Coalition Clinics dog and pony out to welfare office, etc. Nigel: fixed facility what will work to reach population all facilities have refused, or location won't be helpful after survey, can revisit where a location could help concern for exchange of needle from person to person please contact Dave if ever seen (like comment last month about needles left on top of van) 253-222-5672 NO charging fees talked to folks in treatment that's a disincentive. Can't go forward on that NO dispensing machine? need the in-person contact to give info and counseling drop off boxes Exch. does collect more than give out, but still want to help promoting alternative sites with research still in progress

**Survey (Response to request for clarification).** how many sampled compared to total of visits the N of 120 to 150, 50% say, 128 completed surveys 25% of monthly visitors not count the same person twice, how identify responder conducted by intern from TCC. could be replaced PhD Polly Hagen one of top 5 HIV researchers currently NDRI NY City position Nat'l Data Research Institute guessing one month needed to conduct the survey

#### 4. COMMENTS AND IDEAS FROM AREA RESIDENTS

**Bill Bichsel** - Tacoma Catholic Worker has 7 houses on block no liquor, violence drugs allowed even workers no use at all, even off campus unless cleared with coworkers used to go on walks and pray on porch when drugs thick try to be intermediary to try to reduce aim to be inclusive appreciate van because have had to have treatment himself spoke with Gerry; Bates old controversy on Comstock property, eminent domain suggested for Bates dialogue 3-4 years ago made the difference Dean of Instruction & Student Support, Jean Watley at Bates Bix spoke with her about relationship to get returnees from treatment if no training, no hope, no skills, brochure describes

**Our Focus Should Be On More Treatment** plea to work cooperatively and to support treatment

**Cathy Chick** - corner S. 15th & G glad van workers are there; volunteered with AIDS Association and got an education many who exchange needles are prostitutes. if their AIDS goes up, john the lawyer gets it too who is defining the negative impact Karen Havnaer - corner of S. 15th & G doesn't see negative effect; sees professional conduct at the van there is a certain population coming van reaches out in positive way to people who are in a bad way do understand that children could see; this is the world; teach them to understand societal problems

**Sunny Schmitt** - condo purchased at 21st & G will be moving in with 17 year old son. Just what are the neg effects of van?

**Herman Diers** : Bates took survey and saw cars at Exchange are from out of area since services are here, attracts dealers seen prostitution in neighborhood by person who used van

**Sunny**; license plate seems irrelevant; just because you don't like who the people are, or where from is there an increase of violent crime directly related

**Hank Montgomery** : Bates can run license plates, is that legal

**Dave**; how to tell they weren't students

**Heidi Fosner** - corner 15th & G live on same street as Exchange evidence here at meeting tells her "we don't want to see it. Don't want to face that problem exists. It's ugly" if out of sight... sounds like "I don't want to know there's a drug problem"

**Laura Karlin** - along alley between G and Tacoma Ave at 15<sup>th</sup> remember bicycle security patrol was brought up last meeting

**Mary Bradford** - staff at St. Leo Church affirm Van for proactive work looks like scapegoating going on Walkabouts (volunteers from church who walk the streets; includes elderly retired folks) - say they can't understand connection being made between troubles and van

**Greg Hopkins**; concerns not being heard, minimizing is going on police will not add any resources to area FBI sets standard; Tacoma is 100 officers short in community (has 355 only)

**Mary**: not to minimize but do clarify that situation not adding up to be because of needle van

**Marty Mattes** - Bates facilities & operations/security sure, van not directly the culprit crime on 12th by car visiting van, seen circling before, preying student robbed at gunpoint not blaming van indirect activity related to use and sale of drugs not that van must disappear; but be appropriate amount of time and time of day crime indirectly associated with people who use the van not pointing finger at van but you are servicing users of drugs pick up used needles on campus (not van's fault)

**Joe Power-Drutis** - Neighborhood Clinic and resident 1400 block talked to PLU security; increase in car breakins and rape; Parkland/Spanaway look at why crime happens around schools and around vulnerable populations

**Roberta Marsh** - South Sound Outreach diabetic needles also brought for disposal at van career of higher education, managed a higher ed. Facility Bates itself will attract a younger, more vulnerable group who could be attracted to illegal behavior get real data because it is a huge mix

**Terrie and David Vestal** submitted these points in writing about what needs to be addressed:

- There are 15 more children added to our neighborhood since they opened the Hillside Terrace and with the new homes being built.
- On the weekends when the Needle Van is not there, there is a real drop of drug persons and traffic.
- If the existing Needle Van does not want to comply with the needs of our residential area then we may want the Health Department to find another contractor.
- And again that the needs of the Needle Van does not triumph the needs of the residents.

## **5. IDENTIFYING KEY APPROACHES:**

### **Security Patrol**

- Security patrol neighborhood watch
- 1500 block of G  
Wes & guard do patrol, but close in to HK

### **Area Security group**

Jim Anderson of Hospitality Kitchen will take lead with Dave. both HK and Needle Exchange have interest in not having congregants have smaller group discuss. (Bates, NE, HK) how to more effectively have security; respectful but firm be sure solutions are winning for all groups; since perceptions are so different be collaborative in the neighborhood

**Shorter hours** - not unless survey shows alright

**Pharmacy sales** - currently cannot receive used needles will increase availability would take state law to exchange

**Delivery info cards** - emphasize ALL the alternatives available alternate locations

**Alternate location** - Nigel to work on if survey shows other geographic area but homeless still requires 14th & G.

**Reduce traffic quantity from elsewhere**

**Variety of locations** can't ask businesses to do this would require Pt. Defiance staff treatment availability (can't move toward something that you don't have)

**Reduce time between evaluation and treatment.** Alisa has SALT document 3-4 weeks between willing to have evaluation and/or requesting treatment & when a bed opens up political will needed to promote city, county, state dollars longer treatment term needed than 3-4 weeks; doesn't do job put forward statements from any groups to build political will for treatment

**Ten Year Plan.** Donald Lockman's group; Homeless Coalition Road Home 10 year plan Pt. Defiance AIDS Project DOES the referrals already, emphasize this as important part of societal solution

**Dave:** stop the rumor of NE not sending ANYONE to detox.

- HAC Block Leader meeting already spread that
- King County closest for medical on opiates; medically appropriate
- 450 referred to treatment last year # that went to detox first, not avail for 90 days
- 90% did go to detox of 450 referred
- Dave's phone # works in 100 countries. (Is on way to Sri Lanka) 253-222-5672

minutes submitted by Laura Karlin in Jeanie Peterson's absence

(NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 5:00-6:30 P.M. Hopefully more residents will be able to attend at this time. LOCATION: 1224 South "I" Street.)