



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 13, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *PK* Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Fred Medrano, Director, Health and Human Services

Subject: Contract: HIV Prevention Syringe Exchange Services

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution for HIV prevention syringe exchange services for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 in an amount not to exceed \$52,000.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The recommended action will require the expenditure of \$52,000 for HIV prevention syringe exchange services provided by the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (NEED) for FY 2006. The funds for this contract will cover a portion of the cost of syringes, syringe disposal and other HIV prevention materials and activities associated with syringe exchange activities. The funds are included in the FY 2006 baseline General Fund budget for the Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Division, as state and federal grant funds are not allowed to be spent for syringe exchange activities. The contract will be paid from expenditure code 010-4501-440-3038. The contract has been entered into the City contract database and assigned Contract Management System No. GCQPX.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

AB 547 authorizes cities, counties, or cities and counties to have a clean needle and syringe exchange project that, in consultation with the State Department of Health Services, authorizes this exchange, as recommended by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services and as part of a network of comprehensive services.

The City Council recognizes the efficacy and importance of syringe exchange in stopping the HIV epidemic as demonstrated by the hundreds of studies of syringe exchange programs that have been summarized in a series of eight federally funded reports dating back to 1991. Every two weeks since December 7, 1993, the City Council has been declaring a public health state of emergency due to the HIV and Hepatitis C epidemics among intravenous drug users so the City may carry out syringe exchange activities as required by Section 11364.7 of the California Health and Safety Code. This ongoing commitment to syringe exchange has resulted in a lower

HIV infection rate among intravenous drug users in Berkeley than neighboring health jurisdictions.

At specified times and sites, individuals can exchange used syringes for clean ones. In addition, individuals are referred to drug treatment, HIV testing, risk reduction counseling and other client-centered services. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) contracts this activity to the community-based organization NEED. NEED has over 3000 client contacts per year. Each HIV infection avoided is estimated to save over \$195,000, or the cost of one adult's lifetime treatment for HIV. Approval of the recommended action will allow NEED to continue its syringe exchange services without interruption.

BACKGROUND

The City has contracted with the community-based organization, NEED, to carry out the day-to-day direct services at three exchange sites in Berkeley. NEED is a primarily volunteer-based group that is service and cost effective. Educational materials, referrals to HIV testing, drug treatment and other client-centered services are also provided on site. In addition to these costs, the contract with NEED does allow for reimbursement for the costs associated with disposal of contaminated syringes, tourniquets, cottons, cookers, bleach and water bottles. It is important that clients dispose of these properly, because other intravenous drug users can reuse these materials and all of these materials are possible vectors for infection.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Hundreds of studies of syringe exchange programs have been conducted, and most of these have been summarized in a series of eight federally funded reports dating back to 1991. Each of the eight reports has concluded that syringe exchange programs can reduce the number of new HIV infections and do not appear to lead to increased drug use among intravenous drug users or in the general community. Contracting these activities allows us to serve more clients than would be otherwise possible with City staff.

CONTACT PERSON

LeRoy Blea, M.P.H., AIDS Office Coordinator, (510) 981-5383

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

CONTRACT FOR HIV PREVENTION SYRINGE EXCHANGE SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council recognizes the efficacy and importance of syringe exchange in stopping the HIV epidemic as demonstrated by the hundreds of studies of syringe exchange programs that have been summarized in a series of eight federally funded reports dating back to 1991; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has been declaring a public health state of emergency every two weeks since December 7, 1993 due to the HIV and Hepatitis C epidemics among intravenous drug users so the City may carry out syringe exchange activities as required by Section 11364.7 of the California Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, this declaration of a state of emergency has not been an undue burden in Berkeley, the City Council recognizes that other health jurisdictions and municipalities have found that this requirement has been used to block the implementation of syringe exchange activities in their areas; and

WHEREAS, AB 547 would instead authorize cities, counties, or cities and counties to have a clean needle and syringe exchange project that, in consultation with the State Department of Health Services, authorizes this exchange, as recommended by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services and as part of a network of comprehensive services; and

WHEREAS, the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution has a long history of reaching intravenous drug using populations at highest risk for HIV and Hepatitis C infection in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the FY 2006 General Fund budget for the Department of Health and Human Services, budget code number 010-4501-440-3038, and this contract has been set up in the City contract database and assigned Contract Management System No. GCQPX.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with the Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution for HIV prevention syringe exchange services for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 in an amount not to exceed \$52,000. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.