

DATE ISSUED: November 17, 2000

REPORT NO. 00-264

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Clean Syringe Exchange Program Task Force

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

On October 16, 2000, the City Council approved declaring a state of local emergency in connection with the spread of the Hepatitis C virus, exacerbated by the shared use of needles and syringes by intravenous drug users and directed the City Manager to develop and implement a one-year clean needle and syringe exchange pilot program, coupled with a drug abuse treatment program, within the City. In addition, the City Manager was directed to immediately convene a task force charged with developing the practices and procedures to be used in the clean needle and syringe exchange pilot program. At the meeting, the City Manager stated that the County and other cities in the region would be asked whether or not they would be interested in participating in the development of the program.

DISCUSSION

In developing a representative task force related to this issue, several members of the public health community were consulted. In addition to City staff representatives, six individuals who have several years of involvement in closely related issues and who bring their individual and relevant expertise on this issue have agreed to serve on the Clean Syringe Exchange Program Task Force. Following is the full list of Task Force members:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Christopher Mathews, M.D.(Chair) | UCSD Owen Clinic |
| Michael Franz | McAlister Institute |
| Bill Harris | Mayor's Office |
| Bruce Herring | City Manager's Office |
| Phyllis Jackson | Harm Reduction Study Group |
| Linda Lloyd, Ph.D. | Alliance Healthcare Foundation |

