



# Santa Cruz County Syringe Services Program Advisory Commission

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<https://bit.ly/SSP-Program>

## Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
TIME: 6:00 PM  
LOCATION: Hybrid: Virtual and Physical: 1400 Emeline Ave, Bldg. K, Rm 206  
PRESENT: Damon Bruder (3<sup>rd</sup> District), Eric Sturm (4<sup>th</sup> District), Steve Plumb (1<sup>st</sup> District)  
EXCUSED: Sarina King (5<sup>th</sup> District), Joe Hernandez (2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
ABSENT: None  
STAFF: Rahshan Williams (Program Coordinator), Socorro Gutierrez (Health Services Manager), Nicky Meza (Administrative Aide), Lucero Cosio-Santos (Administrative Aide) Laurel Gazza (Administrative Aide)  
GUESTS: None

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions:  
Meeting convened at 6:13 PM.  
Chair Bruder Confirmed attendance.
2. Review and approve January 10, 2023:  
**Motion to approve Meeting Minutes**  
Motion/Second: Sturm/Plumb  
**Motion passed unanimously.**
3. Assembly Bill AB 361  
Laurel Gazza provided an overview of the changes made to the Brown Act and the end of AB 361 effective February 28, 2023. Commission members now must meet in person as of March 1, 2023. AB 2449 takes place but with specific conditions. Public members may attend these meetings remotely without restriction to allow public participation.
4. Correspondence:
5. Public Comment: none
6. Program Updates:  
6.1 Williams presented power point presentation and program updates. 40 interviews with Watsonville community members who use drugs were conducted in collaboration with Community Action Board (CAB), the findings will be presented at the March 14, 2023 meeting. A fourth point in time survey focused on participant technical use and

changes in modality. Commissioner Bruder asked why the surveys were conducted in Watsonville. Williams explained that there is underrepresentation in Watsonville, and it is about equity in services. Gutierrez adding that previous surveys were conducted in Santa Cruz and this survey focused to engage the local community, expand knowledge, equity of services and provide same level resources. Williams shared that the last two Biennial reports have been uploaded to the SSP website.

7. Focus Area Updates:

7.1 Update from Community Engagement Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

No update. Commissioner Sturm ask if this subcommittee should be disbanded or bring this up under regular business. Commissioner Bruder to table for next month when more Commissioners are present to have discussion.

8. New Business/Action Item:

8.1 Board of Supervisors Feedback on Emeline Exchange relocation

Commissioner Plum spoke with Supervisor Coonerty who visited the exchange before and is impressed but concerned it is too close to the MAT program. In favor of a mobile exchange. Commissioner Sturm talked to the chief of staff Ramon who previously worked with Supervisor Caput. Current Supervisor Hernandez not aware of mandate and no opinion at this time. Chair Bruder reached out to new Supervisor and did not hear back and has no feedback from appointed district. Commissioner King and Hernandez not present.

8.2 Program staff provided data on costs of running mobile unit.

Williams presented report on delivery models strength and weaknesses. Data on potential costs of mobile unit provided. Costs of insurance, gas, and maintenance are pending. The report provides data on hybrid, mobile and fixed sites. Commissioner Plumb asking for more information about how HPHP operates and how many days they go out and offer services and if they are serve the same participants. Williams stated they collaborate two days a week and are enthusiastic about increasing partnership and collaboration. Commissioner Sturm suggest trying a pilot program. Reduce hours at Emeline exchange, collaborate with HPHP and purchase a used vehicle from fleet. Do a trial for six months by providing services at the exchange, provide services in collaboration with HPHP and services in the mobile unit. Go to different locations and collect data by asking participants questions about the services received from these three systems. Analyze the data and see what approach works best. Reconvene in six months and discuss the findings and what was the best approach. This will provide the information on the different delivery models.

8.3 Resource Planner IV invited to March SSP Meeting

Liaison shared that the invitation has been sent to Resource Planner IV and will be present at March 14, 2023, meeting.

8.4 Follow up on Monterey County Mobile Unit Visit

Commissioner King not in attendance and unable to provide an update about the site visit to the Action Support Network (ASN) Mobile unit in December.

**Motion to move this item to March Meeting**

Motion/Second: Plumb/Sturm  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

9. Topics for Future Meetings/Action Items:
  - 9.1 Discussion on future of Community Engagement Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
  - 9.2 Discuss alternate site locations for the SSPAC meetings.

10. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM  
Submitted by Lucero Cosio-Santos (*Administrative Aide*)

**From:** Big Joe 77 <[sckeeperinitreal@gmail.com](mailto:sckeeperinitreal@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2023 6:47 AM

**To:** HSA Public Health Administration <[HsaPHAdmin@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:HsaPHAdmin@santacruzcounty.us)>

**Subject:** Please forward to the SSP Advisory Commissioners

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Dear Commissioners,

I've been attending your meetings for some time now, and have a couple thoughts...

Attendance:

I am aware that public attendance to your meetings has never been great, and that you created an "ad-hoc" committee to look into it (now disbanded).

It occurs to me that maintaining virtual meetings is a must, with the hybrid model you created being the ideal, but if you want to grow your attendance, and with that public input, then you have some work to do:

-You need to publish something besides your bare-bones agenda. A member of the public looking at the agenda alone has nothing to consider beforehand. Preparing information beforehand (summary report/ powerpoint presentation, etc) would go a long way towards allowing the public to participate in the discussion. It would also behoove you to have the SSP publish it's monthly characteristics of clients reports ahead of the meetings. If they are unable to have these reports published in the first half of the month, then you should consider pushing your meetings back to the latter half. I've tried to get this through to your admins, but so far have had no luck.

SSP Relocation:

I was pretty alarmed at your last meeting over the discussion of acquiring a cargo van or other surplus county vehicle. I would remind you that it is not possible to deliver health care to a high risk population by simply dispensing syringes out of the back of a van.

You need a clinical setting, and as a mobile option, you should settle for nothing less than a mobile clinic, staffed by an RN and a Drug Counselor. To accept anything less is to fail those you seek to help.

Collaboration:

At your last meeting, I was surprised to learn that all 3 commissioners present at that meeting seek to work collaboratively with the Harm Reduction Coalition, and one commissioner even wanted to view their records to find out how they've become so "successful."

I would remind the Commission that the HRC is anything BUT "successful." None of the members of that group is doing anything useful for the population they purposely poached from the County program.

In their first 12 month reporting period, the only thing they managed to accomplish was to dispense 750,000 syringes to 400 people. They tested no one for HCV/HIV, and left over 360,000 syringes on the ground, in/ around the County's only family shelter. If the County wishes to duplicate that model, then you have completely lost sight of the program's mission statement:

"The primary goal of the SSP is to work in partnership with the community to help prevent the spread of infectious disease associated with injection drug use through early identification of injection (testing), referral to treatment, community education, behavioral counseling, and by providing harm reduction supplies through a syringe services program."

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service.

Link to the HRC Biennial Report:

[https://7cabd232-d920-4e60-89e4-13a812e90157.filesusr.com/ugd/378c84\\_46bcb6d0e0cb496aa63f912d2928f5dc.pdf](https://7cabd232-d920-4e60-89e4-13a812e90157.filesusr.com/ugd/378c84_46bcb6d0e0cb496aa63f912d2928f5dc.pdf)

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Big Joe 77  
Keepin' it Real

**From:** Cimeron <[cimeronm@yahoo.com](mailto:cimeronm@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023 10:02 AM  
**To:** HSA Public Health Administration <[HsaPHAdmin@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:HsaPHAdmin@santacruzcounty.us)>  
**Subject:** SSP Advisory Commissioners meeting: location for SSP exchange

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Hi there,

Thank you for posting such thorough reports for the County SSP program. The reports are fascinating and very helpful.

I know that the SSP Advisory Commissioners are planning to meet again soon, and will possibly discuss finding a new location for the SSP exchange. May I please suggest Soquel or Aptos? Both are suitable due to their proximity to Dominican Hospital, which is helpful for overdose occurrences. It would be beneficial for the environment to have the facility moved to a location that's not near creeks or rivers, as used syringes create waste in our waterways. Both Aptos and Soquel have commercial sites available in areas without nearby waterways.

Thanks very much for your consideration!  
Cimeron Morrissey