



Santa Cruz County Syringe Services Program Advisory Commission

1060 Emeline Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-4623 F: (831) 454-4488 TTY/TDD 711
hsaphadmin@santacruzcounty.us
<https://bit.ly/SSP-Program>

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

TIME: 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Remote Meeting

PRESENT: Steve Plumb (*1st District*), Damon Bruder (*3rd District*), Eric Sturm (*4th District*), Patty King (*At Large*), Jim Hart (*2nd District*)

EXCUSED: None

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Rahshan Williams (*Program Coordinator*), Socorro Gutierrez (*Health Services Manager*), Jennifer Herrera (*Assistant Health Services Agency (HSA) Director*), Nicky Meza (*Administrative Aide*), Megan Holland (*Administrative Services Manager*)

GUESTS:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Introductions:

Meeting convened at 6:00 PM.

2. Review and Approve February 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes

Motion/Second: King/Sturm

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Program Updates:

3.1. Williams reviewed updates on My Santa Cruz County app. Williams shared data from Dec 2021, Jan 2022 and Feb 2022 and there was an increase in the number of their encounters that did not include syringe distribution. Williams shared a letter from Marisa Ramos, Office of Aids Division regarding changes to drug paraphernalia laws and the effects on public health programs. The kiosk at Felker Street has been repaired and back in operation. February reporting will include the new format that has been discussed by the Commission. The Commission questioned how the 16 new participants that have come to our program heard about it and Williams confirmed that it was through word-of-mouth.

Gutierrez updated the Commission on their board presentation on February 15th regarding My Santa Cruz County app. She discussed leveraging existing solid waste disposal resources and improving overall litter efforts of County and the cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz and relayed next steps. The Commission wanted to know what the role will be of the Community Action Board. This board oversees Watsonville

Works which is equivalent to Downtown Streets Team which provides job opportunities to clean up the community.

Holland reviewed the SSP program budget for fiscal year 22-23 which is in development. The Commission inquired how we know that the money that is being spent in the program is being put to good use. They discussed if we should pull out of our SSP program and put it into the other syringe program in our community. Staff clarified that this program is a directive from the board and explained budget perimeters. Sturm suggested to invest in a mobile van that goes around in the community to clients to make it more equitable and accessible. The Commission inquired what would prevent SSP to invest in a mobile van and if this can be added to the budget. Staff confirmed that having a fixed location was a directive from the board and they will check in on the budget question.

Presentation slides will be made available.

4. Continuing Business Items:

4.1 Public Works Follow Up-Replacement for Resource Planner IV

A conditional offer has been made to candidate and is still in process. Should be onboard in the next 2 months.

4.2 Review and discuss new Agenda format

Meza presented the new format to Commission. Sturm made motion to create an Ad-Hoc sub-committee on reports and the new format will be their first item of discussion.

Motion to create/appoint Sturm and King to Ad-hoc Subcommittee on Reports

Motion/Second: Sturm/Plumb

Motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Review Syringe Services Program Board Directives

Bruder encouraged the Commission to review the board directives individually and to come back at the next meeting with questions and thoughts.

Motion to table this discussion to the next meeting

Motion/Second: Plumb/King

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment: none

6. New Business/Action Items:

6.1. Vote to create a Community Engagement Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

Motion to form a Community Engagement Ad-Hoc Subcommittee with Plumb and Sturm

Motion/Second: Sturm/Plumb

Motion passed unanimously.

6.2. Vote for Next Meeting Location, Virtual or In-person (AB361)

Motion to Approve Findings to Authorize Remote Meetings and Remain Virtual for April Meeting

Motion/Second: Plumb/King

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Topics for Future Meetings/Action Items

7.1. Follow up on DPW replacement for Tim Goncharoff, Resource Planner IV.

7.2. Discuss Board Directives

7.3. Update from Reports Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on New Agenda Format

7.4. Update from Community Engagement Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

7.5. Commission to vote on AB 361 document for next meeting location.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion/Second: King/Sturm

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Submitted by Nicole Meza (*Administrative Aide*)