



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD (BHAB) ACTION ITEM

May 6, 2021

REPORT BACK ON COMPREHENSIVE COUNTY SUBSTANCE USE HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY

On January 26, 2021 (13), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) voted to find prior Board direction opposing harm reduction programs, including the December 9, 1997 resolution entitled “Resolution to Oppose Needle Exchange Programs,” to no longer be in effect. The Board further directed the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- Create an Action Plan to realize a Syringe Services Program to meet the needs of San Diego County’s population, including identification of necessary resources, and program partnerships; and in accordance with findings and recommendations in the January 14, 2021, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) memo and accompanied the Family Health Centers of San Diego (FHCS) and San Diego State University’s Institute for Public Health (IPH) study, *Environmental Assessment on People Who Inject Drugs*, and report back to the Board with regular updates; and
- Return within 90 days to the Board with a comprehensive County Substance Use Harm Reduction Strategy including immediate, intermediate, and long-term actions that broadens the existing “Opioid and Prescription Drug Misuse” strategy to bring a harm reduction approach to all substance use interventions across the County.

On June 8, 2021, Behavioral Health Services and Public Health Services will return to the Board with a recommendation to receive the report back on this direction, noting that the Syringe Services Action Plan is a component of the Harm Reduction Strategy.

It is THEREFORE, staff’s recommendation that your Board vote to support the authorizations and approvals needed to advance the recommendation in this Board Letter.