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State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

August 6, 2018

TO: Chief Thomas Kisela, City of Orange; Acting Chief Julian Harvey, City of Anaheim; Chief David Valentin, City of Santa Ana; and Acting Chief Bryan Glass, City of Costa Mesa
Dr. Eric Handler, Orange County Health Officer

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY NEEDLE EXCHANGE MOBILE PROGRAM APPLICATION

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of AIDS (OA) would like to thank you for your participation in the consultation process and inform you that CDPH, OA has authorized the Orange County Needle Exchange Program (OCNEP) to provide syringe exchange mobile services in four locations in Orange County, as proposed in OCNEP's application dated March 19, 2018. This authorization is effective August 6, 2018 through August 6, 2020. OCNEP may apply for renewal before the end of the two-year period, and CDPH, OA may renew the certification, following consultation with local law enforcement officials and the local health officer.

CDPH, OA has determined that OCNEP's application meets the requirements outlined in Health and Safety Code Section 121349 and that there is a public health need for these services due to the significant risk for transmission of HIV and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in Orange County. In making this determination, CDPH has identified Orange County as among the California counties most vulnerable to rapid spread of injection drug use-related HIV and HCV infections. Newly reported cases of chronic hepatitis C increased by 201% between 2011-2015 in Orange County, and the rate of newly-diagnosed HIV cases per 100,000 population increased by 24% between 2012 and 2016. There is currently no syringe exchange program in Orange County, and very few Orange County pharmacies provide non-prescription syringe sales. The services proposed by OCNEP will play a crucial public health role in the prevention of blood-borne diseases, as well as offering support and linkage to critical medical care and social services.

Amendment to OCNEP Operations

In order to address the concerns conveyed during CDPH, OA consultation with local law enforcement and received during the public comment period, OCNEP has conferred with CDPH and requested that, if its application is approved, CDPH, OA amend the



authorization to narrow the geographical location for services and enhance syringe litter clean-up efforts. Therefore, in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 121349, subdivision (h), CDPH, OA is administratively amending the OCNEP authorization as follows:

- 1) The geographical areas of service are narrowed:
OCNEP is authorized to operate in the following times and locations:
 1. Anaheim
Time: Mondays 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursdays 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Area bounded by the Riverside Freeway (California State Route 91), North Anaheim Boulevard, East La Palma Avenue, and North Olive Street.
 2. Costa Mesa
Time: Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: 17th Street from the outer border of the Armstrong Petroleum Plant to Whittier Avenue.
 3. Orange
Time: Tuesdays 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Area bounded by West Katella Avenue/West Struck Avenue, the Santa Ana River, West Orangewood Avenue, and Main Street.
 4. Santa Ana
Time: Wednesdays 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Location: Area bounded by East 4th Street, North Standard Avenue, Walnut Street, and North Grand Avenue.
- 2) As part of increased and collaborative efforts to address syringe litter, OCNEP agrees to provide the following:
 - a. Work with the Orange County Health Care Agency to increase sharps disposal options, including purchase and placement of additional disposal kiosks for the areas served by OCNEP;
 - b. Operate a hotline through which OCNEP will field reports of improperly discarded syringes, or other community concerns, and
 - c. Conduct additional syringe recovery services in and around mobile service areas.

These amendments shall be effective immediately and are made in accordance with a CDPH, OA determination that, with these amendments, OCNEP will continue to meet all standards set forth in subdivision (d) of Health and Safety Code section 121349 and that a public health need exists for such services within Orange County.

CDPH/OA will continue to work with the Orange County municipalities and OCNEP to address ongoing syringe litter collection issues. CDPH, OA is in the process of contracting with an independent evaluator to assess syringe litter in each locale, and will use the results of the survey to evaluate the potential impact of the program on syringe litter. Findings may be used to assist OCNEP in addressing community

concerns, planning for syringe litter collection in vicinities served by OCNEP, and collaborating with the health department in expanding sharps disposal options.

Orange County faces multiple and overlapping public health challenges, and county, city, medical and social service partners have implemented a wide array of strategies to address these challenges. Providing syringe services that include linkage to HIV/HCV screening and care, substance use disorder treatment, and overdose education and prevention will amplify existing public health efforts.

CDPH's formal announcement will be posted shortly and can be found at:
https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DOA/Pages/OA_prev_secpapp.aspx

Sincerely,



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