

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' HEALTH COMMITTEE

Monday, February 23, 2004
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker, Chair
Supervisor Keith Carson

Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers – Room 512 5th floor
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

I. HIV/AIDS HARM REDUCTION SERVICES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY (HIV Prevention Planning Council)

James Walker, Co-Chair Policy Advisor for the HIV Prevention Planning Council, reported on the harm reduction services in Alameda County, related to intravenous drug users (IDU). The IDU population was identified as a top priority for the Council. Harm reduction is defined as measures aimed at reducing the harm associated with drug use without necessarily requiring a reduction in the consumption.

Lisa Carver, HIV Prevention Manager, Tri-City Health Center, reported on the Generations Project, a Harm Reduction Service provided in South and Central Alameda County. The Generations Project is funded by the Tobacco Master Settlement Funds. Services include: outreach, anonymous HIV/HCV testing and wound/abscess care and needle exchange, in two (2) community-based drop-in sites located in downtown and south Hayward.

Joy Rucker, Executive Director, HIV Education and Prevention in Alameda County (HEPAC), reported that HEPAC is similar to Tri-City Health Center's program, providing some of the same services, including needle exchange and wound/abscess care. This year so far HEPAC has served 325 persons in their abscess/wound care clinic, a savings to the County of approximately \$390,000. HEPAC received a grant from Alameda County of \$250,000 to purchase a building, and HEPAC will move into the building on Friday, February 27, 2004.

Ms. Rucker reported that HEPAC leverages dollars and they also partner with other groups who are able to offer additional services. HEPAC has partnered with Collaborative Effort, which will offer a methadone program, located at 95th Avenue and International Boulevard. They will provide HEPAC with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) once a week for mental health services.

Questions/Discussion

Supervisor Carson: Requested the demographic information from Tri-City Health Center. In addition he requested the presenters to share the information with Supervisor Haggerty, District 1.

Supervisor Carson: How many staff persons do you have at Tri-City Health Center?

Lisa Carver: Four (4) full-time and one (1) part-time clinician provide direct services.

Supervisor Carson: How does such a small staff provide the needle exchanges of 5,000 needles per week?

Lisa Carver: There are four (4) full-time equivalents, which provide about 10 hours per week at the drop-in and satellite site. There is one (1) full-time site supervisor and two half-time site supervisors. In addition there are several volunteers, including a volunteer medical assistant.

Supervisor Carson: What is the age of the population you are serving?

Lisa Carver: Sixty-three (63%) of the clients are between 25-44 years of age. The others fall above or below that age group.

Questions/Discussion (continued)

Supervisor Carson: What is their origin and "profile" on the new influx of cases every month?

Lisa Carver: Approximately thirty percent (30%) of new cases are new injectors and seventeen percent (17%) are recently released inmates.

Supervisor Carson: What percentage of cases are women and have you been able to identify the working-class population of users?

Lisa Carver: Thirty-eight percent (38%) are women and usually the working-class population has other sources for needles, for example purchasing needles from a diabetic.

Supervisor Lai-Bitker: With 5,000-8,000 needles exchanged per week, how many people are exchanging?

Lisa Carver: The services are anonymous, which makes it difficult to determine how many people are being served. The Center counts the number of visits; last year (FY 02/03) there were 18,499 visits. A person may bring in 20-30 needles for exchange at one time.

Supervisor Lai-Bitker: Requested a breakdown of the successful outreaches in each city.

Supervisor Lai-Bitker: How many people as a result of the Center's outreach go into treatment programs?

Lisa Carver: 72% of the needle-exchange visits requested information to get into a drug treatment program.

Supervisor Carson: How many individuals does HEPAC serve weekly?

Joy Rucker: Approximately 5000 people use a variety of services, including HIV and Hepatitis C testing, abscess wound care and acupuncture. A large number of clients are served from Modesto, CA for needle exchange because there are no exchange services in San Joaquin County.

Supervisor Keith Carson: To what extent are you attempting to work with other agencies within the County to leverage resources?

Joy Rucker: We are partners with the Food Bank; in partnership with Oasis and East Bay Recovery Project.

Supervisor Lai-Bitker and Supervisor Carson thanked the HIV Prevention Planning Council for their report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

David Kears, Director, Health Care Services Agency, stated that the Agency will attempt to bring to this Committee and update on all of the programs funded with Tobacco Master Settlement funds. Mr. Kears will ask the Board to adopt a continuum of funding for the programs in April, prior to the broader budget process. In addition, to continue with the Tobacco Cessation Program, he will ask a commitment from Alameda Alliance for Health that there Tobacco Funds be cut in half and the other half used to support children's programs, which will immediately run out of funding.

Supervisor Lai-Bitker adjourned the meeting to March 8, 2004.

Board of Supervisors' Committees agendas and summary action minutes are available via Internet at: <http://www.acgov.org/>