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



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

DATE: August 11, 2023

TO: Kristine Ridge, Santa Ana City Manager
David Valentin, Santa Ana Police Chief

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF THE HARM REDUCTION INSTITUTE APPLICATION TO PROVIDE SYRINGE SERVICES

Thank you for your letter of May 19th, 2023 outlining your concern regarding past syringe services programs (SSPs) in Santa Ana and the application of Harm Reduction Institute (HRI) to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for SSP authorization.

CDPH has determined that HRI's application meets the requirements defined in California Health and Safety Code section 121349 and has approved the application as of August 11, 2023. To address concerns raised during the consultation process, CDPH/Office of AIDS (OA) will take the following actions:

- CDPH/OA will fund HRI to conduct additional sweeps for syringe litter to decrease the incidents of syringe litter in public spaces and increase community engagement and education on proper syringe disposal. This activity will be through community canvassing and targeting known areas where syringe litter is found.
- CDPH/OA will contract with an independent researcher to conduct three studies at six, twelve and twenty-four months to monitor improperly discarded sharps waste in the city and provide the results to HRI and to the local health officer.
- CDPH/OA will provide two syringe disposal kiosks to the City of Santa Ana which will include pick-up to help provide additional legal, safe disposal options. We will contact Kristine Ridge, Santa Ana City Manager, to discuss next steps.

HRI is approved to provide services through a home delivery and pick up model within the city of Santa Ana. Services will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Participants who request services will describe the physical address of their home, or, in the case of unhoused participants, geographical markers to help HRI find the person's tent or RV, where HRI will deliver supplies and pick up used syringes for proper disposal. HRI will not deliver supplies to unhoused participants near playgrounds or schools.

Home delivery and pick-up services offer multiple benefits, including increased privacy for participants concerned about being seen visiting a harm reduction program, and the possible resulting stigma. The model also reduces the likelihood of improper syringe disposal and builds better one-on-one relationships. HRI will not be providing services from any fixed location.



Please see the letter to HRI for more information on CDPH's authorization of HRI's application to add syringe services to their current harm reduction services.

Sincerely,



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Assistant Chief, Office of AIDS
For Marisa Ramos
Marisa Ramos, PhD
Chief, Office of AIDS

cc: Tomás J. Aragón, M.D., Dr.P.H.
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