

**Proposed Resolution of the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee on Supporting the
Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County
February 24, 2021**

WHEREAS an increasing number of Democratic leaders, including many of the recent 2020 Presidential candidates¹ support increasing funding and access to harm reduction and addiction services because there is overwhelming evidence from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention² that these services reduce overdose deaths, disease transmission, needle litter and costs for local governments;

WHEREAS the Democratic-led California State Legislature passed the California Harm Reduction Initiative which allocated \$15.2 million through the Budget Act of 2019 to increase Syringe Services Programs³ and the county “brick-and-mortar” syringe services program can not meet all the needs throughout Santa Cruz County, especially Watsonville and San Lorenzo Valley areas;

WHEREAS the HRCSCC has received a \$400,000 grant to be used over 3 years from the California Department of Public Health’s California Harm Reduction Initiative which requires them to abide by strict guidelines⁴ and accountability when administering their program which is supported by our public health officer Dr. Gail Newel, and exemplifies the compassionate approach to our fellow humans championed by the Democratic Party;

NOW THEREFORE the Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee hereby:

RESOLVES that Syringe Service Programs administered under the California Department of Health guidelines, including the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County programs and services, provide a significant positive benefit to our communities by:

- reducing overdose deaths;
- reducing county government healthcare costs by reducing substance-use related infections and viral infections like HIV and hepatitis C virus;
- serving as a bridge to healthcare and addiction recovery services;
- protecting the community and public workers by reducing the spread of infectious disease and reducing needle litter in the community without increasing criminal activity or drug use;
- having required reporting to our health officer and Health Services Agency.

³ <https://shorturl.at/zGY58>

⁴ <https://californiaptc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/OA-Guidelines-for-SEPs-opt.pdf>

Further Reading and other sources of info.

<https://www.harmreductioncoalitionofsantacruzcounty.com/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-summary.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/>

<https://cruzgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opstdashboard/index.html#/750668821e704dd3a89b14d00cdbf5f7>

<https://californiaptc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/OA-Guidelines-for-SEPs-opt.pdf>

<http://ftp.costamesaca.gov/costamesaca/planningcommission/agenda/2019/2019-07-08/PH-6-Att-1.pdf>

<https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2019-10-25/court-order-all-but-bans-mobile-needle-exchange-program-in-costa-mesa-other-o-c-cities>

<https://beta.documentcloud.org/documents/20421648-cdph-petition-complaint-12-08-20pr>

<https://www.cdc.gov/ssp/syringe-services-programs-factsheet.html>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3358593/>

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/902a267c624a31780f2479ee0/files/12644347-94f6-4c7d-9ca9-f44db80585fe/CORRE_Press_Release_1_.pdf?utm_source=California+Contacts&utm_campaign=75f6a1fa1e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_06_21_02_58&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f14d0ac822-75f6a1fa1e-238789817

<https://harmreduction.org/blog/harm-reduction-coalition-selected-to-lead-15-2-million-california-harm-reduction-initiative/>

<https://www.lac.org/assets/files/LAC-polling-sheet-combo-no-crops.pdf>

<https://www.lac.org/news/lac-2020-policy-recommendations-promoting-access-to-care-health-justice-and-equity-opportunity>

<https://www.jhsph.edu/news/news-releases/2018/public-support-for-needle-exchange-programs-safe-injection-sites-remains-low-in-US.html>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/articles/2019-01-24/opioid-crisis-harm-reduction-struggles-for-acceptance-in-us>

<https://harmreduction.org/issues/establishing-rural-programs/>

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/9/10/20851108/opioid-epidemic-2020-democratic-presidential-candidate>

<https://drugpolicy.org/press-release/2020/09/syringe-access-bill-california-signed-law-governor-newsom>