Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) in N.D.: Highlights and Lessons Learned

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The HIV/STD/TB/Hepatitis Program and the Dakotas AIDS Education and Training Center (DAETC) conduct monthly Lunch and Learn Webinars for health care professionals in North and South Dakota.

Each month a new topic will be held from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. CST on the fourth Wednesday of the month.
Continuing Education Credits

Please complete the post-test to receive CEUs for this presentation. You must score at least 70% to receive credit.

You may take the post-test up to two weeks after the presentation. Post-test, along with the slides and the recording of this presentation can be found at:

https://www.ndhealth.gov/hiv/Provider/

For questions or comments contact:
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What Is a Syringe Services Program (SSP)?

- Community-Based Public Health Program that Provides Comprehensive Harm Reduction Services such as:
  - Sterile needles, syringes and other injection equipment
  - Safe disposal containers for needles and syringes
  - HIV and hepatitis testing and linkage to treatment
  - Education about overdose prevention and safer injection practices
  - Referral to substance use disorder treatment
SSPs in ND

- **Senate Bill 2320**
- State Health Department is given Authority to Authorizes Qualified Agency to Operate a Program
- Effective: August 1, 2017
- As of August 22, 2018; Two authorized programs in N.D.
- No State General Funds Allocated for SSPs
Implementing and Operating a SSP – Training Opportunity

- September 4, 2018: 8:30am to 4:30pm
- Fargo, N.D. @ Fargo Cass Public Health
- Topics:
  - Harm Reduction 101/Stigma etc.
  - Culturally Competent Care with PWID
  - How to communicate with policy makers and the public what you are doing/plan to do
  - Best practices for a program
  - Safer injection practices
  - How to find funding for your program
  - State Authorization Process and Tools (Maven)
Mandan Good Neighbor Project
Planning

* Met with Chief of Police
* Funding – multiple sources
* Start application process with the Department of Health
* Conducted meetings including Custer Health staff, Neighborhood meeting and a Community meeting
Planning

* Application process
* Meet with NDDOH Disease Control staff
* Order supplies
* Public notice
* Started serving clients on January 16, 2018
Lessons Learned with Planning

* Pay for the public notice that is published- we started with a free one and it never was published. Delayed our opening by 2 weeks.
* Grant funding- NASEN supplied $1,000 worth of injecting supplies- need to apply early took about 8 months.
Implementation

- Three trained HIV/Hepatitis C /STD nurses
- One exam room dedicated to the program
- Hours Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
- Custer Health office access
- Safety
- Enrollment forms/Expectations/Educational materials
- Log for data
Needed to expand to 2 exam rooms/2 nurses by March
Continue to change forms
Continue to change practice including number of syringes returned/number distributed
Weigh and look into bio buckets to determine number of syringes
Lessons Learned with Implementation

* Growth greater than funding for supplies
* Continue to have persons that are not in favor of the program
* Education to the public is essential
* Client referrals are extensive
* Data is important
Mandan Good Neighbor Project

- 80 enrollees - all must test for HIV/Hepatitis C on enrollment
- 50% are Hepatitis C positive
- 1 HIV positive client
- We see on the average of 20 per week with 3 to 4 new enrollees.
Mandan Good Neighbor Project

* Items provided- syringes, hand sanitizer, alcohol swabs, tourniquet, cooker, cotton filters, sterile water, bandaids, antibiotic ointment, condoms, Naloxone as needed, biohazard bucket all in a paper bag.

* Referrals are provided for medical care, mental health, substance abuse treatment, housing, employment, legal services and others as needed.
Mandan Good Neighbor Project

- Majority of our clients have permanent homes
- Live in Burleigh and Morton Counties
- More female than males enrolled
- Most common drug injected Methamphetamine
Conducted a survey in June

Questions asked:

1. Do you feel you have been treated with respect by the nursing staff? 100% yes
2. Do you feel you have been treated with respect by reception and other staff? 100% yes
3. Preferred days of the week? Tuesday was the favorite day with Thursday and Friday tied for 2nd.
4. Preferred hours of service? Same/any
5. Items most frequently used?
   Needles, alcohol wipes and band aids
6. Items most frequently re-used?
   Needles, cookers and ties
7. How satisfied are you with the service- majority very satisfied and satisfied
Next Steps

- Add another exam room so we can conduct the nurse of the day duties during GNP hours
- Add another nurse so the GNP nurses have a break
- Continue to look for funding – multiple grants are pending
- Meet with GNP nurses every other week
- Mercer County has requested a program – need to find a place to conduct the project.
Questions?

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Syringe Services Program
Presentation Topics

- Program Implementation Steps
- Existing Favorable Conditions
- Essential Support
- Gaining Support
- Services Provided
- Outcomes
- Program Maintenance
Hello!

Fargo Cass Public Health Syringe Services Program Team

Dr. John Baird, Health Officer/County Coroner
Ruth Roman, Director of Public Health
Jan Eliassen, Director of Gladys Ray Shelter/Veteran’s Drop In
Jeremy Kelly, Harm Reduction Specialist
Robyn Litke Sall, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator
Implementation Steps

- Legislative authorization
- Identify funding, site, staff, structure & name
- Write plan, obtain authorization from NDDOH
- Receive City Commission approval
- Set up site
- Set up accounts & order supplies
- Training
Favorable Conditions

- Opioid crisis
- Funding
- Existing harm reduction programs
- SSP in Moorhead since 2015
- Experienced staff
- Support
Essential Support

- Director
- Health Officer
- Community
- Neighborhood
- Commission
- Law Enforcement
- State’s Attorney
- Media
- Staff
Here at the HarIM Reduction Center we aim to exchange your syringe with one of ours.
Gaining Support

- Data
- Authorization
- Community Forum
- Commission meeting
- Neighborhood meetings
- Law enforcement meeting
- Educate staff
- News conference/open house
Services Provided

- 24-hour syringe disposal
- HIV/HCV rapid testing
- Safer injection supplies & education
- Safer sex supplies & education
- Narcan training & distribution
- Referrals to treatment & other services
- Peer recovery coaching
- Mon & Thurs 4-8pm; Tues & Wed 1-5pm; Fri 8a-noon
Outcomes - Late April thru July

- 114 enrollees thru 8/17/18
- 290 visits
- 69 Narcan distributions
- 10 saves*
- 6310 syringes distributed thru 7/18
- 1557 syringes collected thru 7/18
- 2720 syringes collected in kiosk thru 8/17
Program maintenance

- Documenting
- Reporting
- Evaluating
- Communicating
Don’t forget…

- Knowledge of harm reduction
- Relationships with providers
- Participant involvement
- Safe & trusting place
Thanks!
Any questions?
Questions

- CEU: https://www.ndhealth.gov/hiv/Provider/
- Registration for September 4th Training: www.ndhealth.gov/HIV/SSP.
- Next Lunch and Learn: Anti-Tuberculosis Adverse Drug Effects on September 26th at 12pm CT.

Presenters:

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