I. Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone Distribution (OPEND) Project Update

Attachment

James Nguyen, Interim Finance & Administration Director, Health Care Services Agency and Savannah O’Neill, OPEND Coordinator, HIV Education Prevention Project, Alameda County presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Overdose Prevention Education and Naloxone Distribution (OPEND) Project.

Nationally, overdose deaths involving opioids have been increasing. In California overdose deaths involving opioids was on the rise from 2002 until leveling off in 2014. Opioid related deaths in Alameda County are lowering than the national and state rates, however there has been a steady increase since 2012.

Opioid related hospitalizations contribute significantly to health care costs, with a forty-five percent (45%) increase from 2009 to 2015 in Alameda County, totaling $6.6 million to $9.6 million.

The OPEND project represents a cost effective prevention strategy that can reduce healthcare costs associated with hospitalizations for opioid overdose. Project goals for OPEND’s first year included to increase Naloxone by providing one on one trainings for people at risk for opioid overdoses, their friends and family members. Studies show that providing Naloxone kits to this population reduces deaths, is safe and cost effective. In addition the OPEND Pilot Project built capacity of organizations to respond to opioid overdoses.

The Health Care Services Agency requests the Health Committees support to continue the OPEND Pilot project for a second year with a Measure A funding request for $150,000.

Speaker

Loris Mattox, Executive Director, HIV Education Prevention Project of Alameda County (HEPPAC), spoke in support for implementation of supervised injection facilities (SIFs) or drug consumption spaces. SIFs are legally sanctioned facilities, to safely inject narcotics and dispose of needles. There are approximately 100 SIFs operated throughout the world in sixty-six cities, including Seattle, WA, which became the first SIF site in the United States.

Purpose:
☐ Report progress
☐ Advocacy or Education
☒ Request Health Committee Recommendation or Position
☐ Other:

Recommendation from the Health Committee: Support. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.
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