

Needle Exchange Program

Lexington – Fayette County Health Department

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Lexington- Fayette Urban County Council
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SB 192 Impacts on Public Health

School Health

- Kentucky Department for Public Health to collaborate with local boards on program to maintain naloxone in schools (Section 8)

Referrals for Service

- If contact information is obtained, overdose victims to be reported to the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department (LFCHD) by first responders or emergency rooms.
- The LFCHD to follow up with treatment information (Section 11)

Needle Exchange Program

- Local Option to develop & operation of local programs (Section 18)

Needle Exchange Program – Local Option

- Senate Bill 192 allows a local health department to operate a substance abuse treatment outreach program for participants to exchange hypodermic needles & syringes.
- Local Health Departments must have the consent & authorization from local policy makers:
 - *Board of Health*
 - *Legislative Body (City Council)*

Public Health Benefits

- Needle Exchange Program
 - Prevent the spread of
 - Hepatitis B
 - Hepatitis C
 - HIV Accept referrals from others
 - Refer patients needing treatment
 - For hepatitis etc
 - For drug abuse

Operational Framework

- Start up: by Labor Day
- Location: 650 Newtown Pike (Health Dept.)
- Hours: daytime
- Must return used needles
- Patient Identification
 - For needles only: Anonymous with unique identifier

Referral Processes

First responders & hospitals

- Detailed procedures to be determined
- Input from first responders being obtained

Persons who self-refer

- Walk in during operational hours

Treatment Services

- Identification: standard patient information

Program Development - Stakeholders

- Kentucky Department for Public Health
- Recognized experts in substance abuse
- Social Services & Public Safety Officials
- Persons who operate needle exchanges in Cincinnati and other cities
- UK Infectious Disease doctors
- Heroin Task Force participants
- Drug addicts

Program Development – Feedback

- Get started
- Don't make it complicated
- Get as many needles on the street as you can
- Be flexible
- Establish trust with the ones you serve
- Keep it confidential
- See that we don't get arrested for participating in needle exchange

Public Health Cost Effectiveness

Patient Treatment Costs (estimated):

- Hepatitis B \$65,000 lifetime
- Hepatitis C \$90,000-100,000 lifetime
- HIV \$285,000 lifetime

Needle Exchange Program Funding:

- Ad valorem public health tax
- Support from local agencies

Note: State and federal funds are currently restricted

Questions & Comments