

Substance Use Work Group

Presentation of Recommendations

HIV HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 24, 2014

SUBSTANCE USE WORK GROUP MEMBERS

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WORK GROUP SCHEDULE AND PROCESS

- Met Monthly – May through September
 - Six 2-hour meetings
- Facilitated by Elected Community Co-chairs
 - Laura Thomas and Michael Discepola
- CHEP Staff Leaders
 - Eileen Loughran, Hanna Hjord
- Background Research and Development
 - Valerie Rose



WORK GROUP CONTEXT

- ❏ HPPC Priorities
- ❏ SF Jurisdictional Plan
- ❏ Mayor's CARES Task Force
- ❏ Needs Assessment by Harder+Co
- ❏ MAI-TCE Initiative



TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- The Substance Use Work Group is presenting on recommendations within 5 Priority Areas
- The Priority areas are broken down by recommendations which were presented for approval to the HPPC.
- Further details and suggested action steps are outlined in the summary document

WORK GROUP GOAL

- To compile recommendations on next steps for addressing HIV-related needs of people who use substances
- Guided Process
 - Identified key issues (Brainstormed by HPPC)
 - Focus attention on Crack Use
 - Categorize and Prioritize Key Issues



FRAMING THE ISSUES



- Harm reduction principles and philosophy
 - Embracing Existing Policies
 - Embracing Innovation
 - Embracing Change
 - Articulating Policy Implementation
 - Evidence and Reality Based Interventions
 - Training and Cross Training
 - Provider Accountability

WORK GROUP PHILOSOPHY

People who use alcohol and other substances are equal members of the San Francisco community; however, they experience stigma related to their substance use and needless barriers to prevention and treatment.

FIVE PRIORITY AREAS

1. Harm Reduction
2. HIV Prevention, Treatment and Substance Use Programs
3. Interventions
4. System of Care
5. Criminalization

HARM REDUCTION

Recommendation 1: Align principles and philosophy of harm reduction across all substance use treatment, HIV prevention and HIV care programs

- **Recommit**, restate and embrace the principles of harm reduction
- **Update** the city's harm reduction policy
- **Emphasize** training and accountability by department and providers

HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND SUBSTANCE USE PROGRAMS

Recommendation 2a: Ensure that people who use alcohol and other substances have access to treatment and prevention programs that are grounded in the tenets of harm reduction

- ▣ **Explore** how HIV prevention and HIV care are (or could be) integrated into substance use programs and policies

Recommendation 2b: Recommit to a system of care that offers treatment on demand

Recommendation 2c: Remove the structural barriers imposed by outmoded Civil Service policies that prohibit programs from hiring qualified staff with specialized expertise

- ▣ **Provide** flexibility acknowledging that staff working within mental health, substance use, and HIV need a unique set of skills and expertise.

INTERVENTIONS

Recommendation 3: Ensure that people who use alcohol and other substances have access to evidenced based interventions for HIV prevention, substance use treatment and HIV care

- ▣ **Recognize** importance of evidence-based interventions that allow room for innovation and new ideas.
- ▣ **Recommit** to outreach as an effective means to engage hard to reach populations.

SYSTEM OF CARE

Recommendation 4: Ensure that people who use alcohol and other substances have access to a system of care that is coordinated, cohesive, comprehensive, non-punitive and non-stigmatizing

- ❑ **Ensure** that substance use status is not a structural barrier
- ❑ **Emphasize** collaborations and partnerships
- ❑ **Ensure** community engagement
 - ❑ Educate community about services
 - ❑ Address stigma

CRIMINALIZATION OF PERSONS WHO USE DRUGS

Recommendation 5: Ensure that people in San Francisco who use alcohol and other substances do not face criminalization as a result of substance use

- ❑ **Decriminalize** drug use in San Francisco
- ❑ **Acknowledge** that a public health approach *is* decriminalization
- ❑ **Create** a more humane approach to substance use: care versus punishment

NEXT STEPS...

- HPPC approved all 6 recommendations on October 9th
- HPPC supports advancement of recommendations to internal SFDPH substance use work group
 - HPPC substance use work group recommends co-chairs' participation with internal workgroup
 - Internal Substance Use work group set to convene in early 2015.
- Present Substance Use Work group recommendations to the HIV Health Services Planning Council.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

THANK YOU!
