SAFE INJECTION FACILITIES
TASK FORCE
RECOMMENDATIONS
HCPC Presentation 2–26–2018

Laura Thomas (TF Member), Mike Discepola (TF Member), Paul Harkin

**Special thank you to Eileen Loughran & DPH staff for support & the use of the slides adapted for this presentation.**
General Framework:
San Francisco Safer Injection Services Task Force

The Task Force developed 17 total recommendations that support the creation of safe injection services in San Francisco, and address the need for legal analysis, program planning and management, delivery model, location considerations, community engagement and education, and identifying special populations.
HIV Community Planning Council Motion

**Approved by Steering Committee 2/15/18**

• The HCPC full membership endorses the Safe Injection Services (SIS) Task Force’s recommendations for operating safe injection services in San Francisco.

• The HCPC supports Assembly Bill 186

• The HCPC supports the implementation of safe injection services
INJECTION DRUG USE IN SF

- Estimated 22,500 people who inject drugs in SF
- SF has continued to see overdoses from heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl poisoning
- People who inject drugs are at-risk for
  - unhealthy substance use
  - acquisition and transmission of HIV and hepatitis C
  - serious physical and mental health conditions
  - premature death
OVERDOSES IN SF

- SF has continued to see overdoses from heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl poisoning.

- Overdose deaths from opioids and stimulants in SF have been fairly stable.

RANGE OF OVERDOSE DEATHS IN SF PER YEAR SINCE 2006

February 26, 2018 HCPC
HARM REDUCTION

- Public health philosophy
- Promotes methods of reducing the physical, social, emotional, and economic harms associated with harmful behaviors that impact individuals and their community
- Free of judgment and directly involve clients in setting their own health goals

Examples in San Francisco

- Syringe Access & Disposal
- Naloxone
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine)
- Sobering Center
SAFE INJECTION SERVICES

- Professionally supervised facilities where drug users can inject pre-obtained drugs in safer conditions

- Service models:
  - Integrated
  - Specialized
  - Mobile
SAFE INJECTION ROOM – MONTREAL
SAFE INJECTION ROOM – VANCOUVER
SAFE INJECTION ROOM – AUSTRALIA
TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION #123–17

- Introduced by Supervisor London Breed (passed April 2017)
- Urged SFDPH to convene a safe injection services (SIS) task force

Task Force Purpose:
- to investigate: the potential opportunities and obstacles associated with safe injection services; the community need for such services; and the feasibility of opening and operating such services.
TASK FORCE COMPONENTS

- APRIL 2017 – SEPTEMBER 2017
- 15 TASK FORCE MEMBERS
- 3 TASK FORCE MEETINGS
- 3 SURVEYS
- 2 FOCUS GROUPS
Support creation of safe injection services in San Francisco

“You don’t want to see me use drugs. I don’t want you to see me use drugs. SIF will meet both our needs.” –Seven
POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF SIS FOR SAN FRANCISCO

ANNUALLY

415
HOSPITAL STAYS

3.3
HIV CASES

19
HEP C CASES

110
PWID ENTERING TREATMENT

1
LIFE SAVED EVERY 4 YEARS

$3.5 M
NET SAVINGS

KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

PROGRAM PLANNING

- Plan for legal and real estate barriers
- Conduct need and planning assessments
- Clear program goals, metrics, and program improvement processes

“By not being subjected to these images in public areas, this will help in reducing any triggers I sometimes feel.” – Anonymous, in early recovery
KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

MODEL

- **Integrated model** with on-site services and linkages to other services, including peer staff

“Well, these sites would make a huge difference for people in recovery or that want to be in recovery.”

– Courtney
KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

LOCATION

- Multiple sites throughout San Francisco where drug use most often occurs
- Locate where existing services are delivered to people who inject drugs

“I use drugs. I’ve also reversed over 20 overdoses. If we had a SIF, you could save more lives than I could.” – Frank
KEY TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

- Strong community engagement with:
  - Residents, business owners, and neighborhood groups
  - Law enforcement, probation, and parole agencies
  - City agencies and community organizations

“I don’t want to use drugs in public, especially in front of children.” – Kyle
TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- Identify populations at greater risk for health disparities, barriers to services, and/or risk for experiencing violence related to drug use

“I don’t want to die of an overdose alone.” –Johnny
NEXT STEPS

 LEGAL ANALYSIS

 ADVOCATE FOR AB 186

 INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS AND SERVICE SITES

 DEVELOP WORK PLAN
AB 186 – Safer Substance Use Services

This bill allows local governments the discretion to authorize public health and medical intervention programs intended to reduce death, disability, or injury due to the use of controlled substances.

According to the California Department of Public Health, drug overdose is a leading cause of accidental death in California.

AB 186 would allow, pursuant to a vote of local government, exemptions for employee, staff, volunteers, and clients of health facilities intended to reduce drug overdose death and injury from charges related to possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia, visiting a place where a controlled substance is present, or maintaining a place where controlled substances are used.
HCPC Motion

• The HCPC full membership endorses the Safe Injection Services (SIS) Task Force’s recommendations for operating safe injection services in San Francisco.

• The HCPC supports Assembly Bill 186

• The HCPC supports the implementation of safe injection services.