

WAYNE COUNTY SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Co-Authored by Cherie Juhasz, Public Health Nurse Specialist and
Mark Linderman, Environmental Health Specialist Supervisor

Wayne County Health Department November 19th, 2015

Dr. David Keller, M.D.
Health Officer

Eric Coulter, MBA, Ed.D.
Executive Director

WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Wayne County Community Health Center
201 E. Main Street, Richmond, IN 47374

765-973-9245 Phone
765-973-9361 Fax

Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) Proposal, Wayne County, Indiana

PARTNER SIGNATURE PAGE

The following list of signatures represents the partners of Wayne County who endorse and will carry forth the SEP services outlined in this proposal.

X _____
Dr. David Keller
Wayne County Public Health Officer

X _____
Eric Coulter
Executive Director – Wayne County Health Department

X _____
John Lebo
Wayne County Health Board, President

X _____
Robb Backmeyer
Centerstone Chief Operating Officer

X _____
Craig Kinyon
Reid Health, President/CEO

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Wayne County Health Department Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) Proposal

201 East Main Street
Richmond, IN 47374

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Wayne County Health Department (WCHD) has identified an epidemic of hepatitis C in Wayne County, with Intravenous Drug Use (IDU) as the primary mode of transmission. Surveillance data from the Indiana National Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) indicates that Wayne County ranks in the top Quartile of the State for its 3-Year Median Case rate 2010-2012 for Acute and Chronic hepatitis C. The case rate for confirmed hepatitis C in Wayne County has significantly increased to 179/100,000 compared to Indiana's rate of 69/100,000. Secondary indicator suggesting the hepatitis C rates are associated with illicit and intravenous drug use, include Wayne County's rate for drug poisoning deaths (25/100,000) being higher than Indiana's rate (15/100,000), according to Spotlight on HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Semi-Annual Reports, Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). In addition, non-fatal emergency room visits due to opioid overdoses in Wayne County (72/100,000) are higher than Indiana's rate (33/100,000).

To reduce the potential for increased transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C, and other blood borne pathogens, Wayne County Health Department would like to implement a Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) within Wayne County. Over the past thirty years, Wayne County has offered low-cost HIV/STD/hepatitis testing to community, along with a variety of evidence-based interventions (EBIs) to combat HIV/hepatitis transmission. These interventions have included Crisis Risk Counseling Services (CRCS), Popular Opinion Leader (POL), and Community Outreach to name a few. Wayne County Health Department's goal has always been to educate and empower residents to make healthy choices and access supportive services.

Despite this list of interventions utilized by the department, Hepatitis surveillance case managers began to notice in 2013 an increase in younger (20-39) individuals acquiring hepatitis C in Wayne County, with the majority reporting injection drug use as their primary risk. Hepatitis awareness discussions, among local service providers, began that same year, while WCHD continued to monitor the situation and gather information.

This prompted local program managers to take a more in-depth look at 2014 data, which revealed a dramatic increase in hepatitis, which had already been identified as a primary indicator in the Scott County HIV outbreak. It soon became apparent that past interventions have not worked to curtail new hepatitis infections occurring among young PWI in Wayne County. According to Wayne County surveillance case management and I-NEDSS reporting, approximately 55% of hepatitis C among patients aged 20-39 in 2014 were associated with injection drug use and the numbers were on pace to meet or exceed these numbers in 2015. It is based on these indicators, and history of less than adequate program success, that the Wayne County Health Department is looking to employ the novel, comprehensive approach SEP can offer young People Who Inject (PWI) in Wayne County. Unlike any other communicable disease intervention/prevention tools of the past, SEP in Wayne County will provide clean syringes to People Who Inject (PWI) illicit drugs and will serve as an entry point for substance abuse treatment including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) options, health insurance application, primary medical and mental health care, HIV and Hepatitis testing, birth control information, and other needs indicated by the individual. Wayne County's SEP will be spearheaded by the Wayne County Health Department, Reid Health, and Centerstone, with a strong partnership and shared mission among local community health providers, substance abuse treatment centers, law enforcement, and local municipalities. SEP programming in Wayne County will be operationally managed by the Wayne County Health Department (WCHD). Staffing shall also include Indiana State Certified Navigators, provided by both the Wayne County Health Department and Reid Health. Services are to include counseling and/or referral

for substance abuse treatment, HIV, STD, and viral hepatitis testing, and other service referral resources (i.e. medical, food, housing, etc.). In the meantime, Wayne County Health Department is offering walk-in HIV/hepatitis screening weekly to increase access to testing, referral to treatment, and to supplement testing already offered through Aspire Indiana's Special Populations Services Program (SPSP).

If authorized, Wayne County Health Department plans to provide the most efficient, comprehensive, targeted SEP within Wayne County. It has become apparent that individuals within Wayne County need more education on preventing hepatitis through injection drug use and is looking for an opportunity to live healthier lives. Wayne County Health Department and its community partners would like to make this opportunity a reality.

TECHNICAL CAPACITY STATEMENT

Wayne County Health Department has provided STD clinical testing and treatment to the residents of Wayne County and surrounding communities, adding HIV testing, education, and prevention services. Staff and program managers of STD/HIV and hepatitis prevention within the department, have more than twenty years of experience in the field. Wayne County Health Department serves as a model for other public health managed STD Clinics and has maintained and exceeded the State's standard of service for many years. With the governance and support of a progressive and informed Health Officer, Executive Director, a seven member Health Board of Directors, an eleven member Federally Qualified User Board of Directors, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, the Wayne County Commissioners, Centerstone, Reid Health, local municipalities, and a vast array of community stakeholders, including mental health, the Wayne County Health Department is prepared to offer a comprehensive Syringe Exchange Program in Wayne County.

OPERATIONAL NARRATIVE

The following section highlights Wayne County's SEP program's target population, purpose, and delivery methods.

TARGET POPULATION: Anyone who reports substance abuse/addiction, is actively injecting drugs, and is voluntarily seeking to obtain clean, unused syringes, in exchange for used syringe disposal.

PRIMARY LONG-TERM SEP GOAL: To reduce the spread of hepatitis C, and prevent a widespread HIV outbreak among people who inject drugs (PWI) within Wayne County, by providing clean syringes and injection equipment and disease prevention education.

SECONDARY SHORT-TERM SEP GOAL: Increase access to comprehensive "one-stop-shop" service referral for IDU, to include, but not be limited to, HIV and Hepatitis screening, health insurance (HIP 2.0) application for primary medical and mental health care, birth control information, and substance abuse treatment including Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) options.

Objective 1: Reduce number of newly confirmed Hepatitis B (HBV), Hepatitis C (HCV) and HIV infections in Wayne County as indicated by Indiana's National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS).

Activities:

- Provide syringe exchange and disposal services for active injection drug users in Wayne County
- Increase access to testing for HBV, HCV, and HIV
- Provide more targeted education about HBV, HCV, and HIV transmission and prevention
- Enroll more uninsured individuals into a qualified health insurance plan

- Initiate active referral system for linkage to care for all reactive viral hepatitis and (or) positive HIV clients
- Refer all non-vaccinated adults to immunization resources in Wayne County

Objective II: Increase the number of individuals who access substance abuse (SA) treatment programs, measured by the number of patients enrolled in community SA programs for therapeutic periods of time, as determined by local SA providers.

Activities:

- Provide timely, accurate SA assessments in order to determine the appropriate level of care for each person that is interested in treatment
- Support clients through a person-centered treatment plan that meets the goals of the client
- Include the assistance of physicians, therapists, nurses, and care coordinators who provide a complete system of care, whether in an Centerstone office or in the community.

LOCATIONS OF SEP DELIVERY

The location of the SEP delivery site will be within walking distance of the highest risk communities identified in Wayne County. This may be determined by reviewing I-NEDSS data, State epidemiological maps, talking to law enforcement, and conferring with local gatekeepers within the local PWI community. In addition, considering other census information such as areas stricken by highest poverty, unemployment, age groups 20-39, within areas that public records reveal frequent drug arrests, etc. can be indicators as to best placement of the SEP delivery site.

The SEP location will be utilized to provide the best fit for the targeted population. The storefront location will be selected based on privacy, easy access, and co-location with, or near, other needed services whenever possible. This could be an existing space with an already established agency or a separate, health department secured location, specific for this purpose only. This storefront location will exchange syringes and works utilizing the negotiation based and one for one plus transaction models. The transaction will be based upon assessment of PWI to work toward the goal of 100% syringe coverage – 1 clean syringe for every injection of every PWI.

The storefront SEP delivery location is based on already known data and stakeholder partnerships.

STOREFRONT SITE: Program will initially be launched on a monthly basis, and scheduled for a Thursday afternoon between the hours of 3-5pm. It will then be decided at a later date (to be determined) and upon an “as-needed” basis if the frequency of the clinics is to be increased.

RECOMMENDED SEP DELIVERY SITE STAFF

Needle Exchange/Reception Staff:

**Provided by the Wayne County Health Department, Centerstone, and Reid Health*

1-2 individuals to provide actual needle exchange services including, but not limited to:

Initial greeting and personal identifier assignment, collection of used syringes, dissemination of clean syringes based on clients reported monthly use, basic education about disease transmission specific to injecting drugs, and awareness of other available services. Skill set of this staff will be similar to those of public health educator, medical intake clerk, triage nurse, medical assistant, or medical office assistant.

HIV/HCV Tester:

**Provided by the Wayne County Health Department*

1 Indiana State Department of Health CTR certified HIV Testing Counselor who is trained in phlebotomy.

Substance abuse/behavioral health counselor/certified substance abuse counselor:

**Provided by the Centerstone and Reid Health*

1 individual who is knowledgeable about the various treatment options within Wayne County and is able to initiate general pre-screening and assessment for active referral into local substance abuse treatment programming.

Health Insurance Navigator:

**Provided by the Wayne County Health Department and Reid*

1 health insurance navigator able to enroll individuals into HIP 2.0 or other qualifying health insurance plans.

Security Staff:

**Staff provision is TBA*

1 individual trained in public safety to provide security in the event of an unforeseen emergency.

*In the event that not all aforementioned staff can be present at the SEP delivery site, there will always be a minimum of 2 intake/exchange clerks and 1 tester at the delivery point, with referral information for all other services.

FREQUENCY OF DISTRIBUTION

Each designated SEP delivery site will be operated no more than 1 x month in the beginning of the program, with potential of increased frequency based on need and resource availability.

AMOUNT OF NEEDLES/SYRINGES EXCHANGED

This will be based on the amount of needle use reported by the PWI, providing a monthly supply of clean needles, using the data collection intake forms used in Scott County, Indiana, designed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Attachment B – Intake Forms)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION/SUPPLIES TO BE DISTRIBUTED

Individuals receiving clean syringes will also receive alcohol swabs and other items such as, Band-Aids, condoms, wound care supplies. Educational material specific to disease transmission and healthy habits for PWI will be offered. Overdose Prevention Information will be reviewed and given to the PWI. All patients encountered at the SEP delivery site will be provided a laminated ID card to identify them as an active participant in the syringe exchange program, utilizing a non-identifiable ID#.

Sharps containers will be provided at each visit for the PWI to dispose used syringes. Personal sharps containers will be sent with the PWI, with specific instructions on how to safely transport and return used syringes at the next month's exchange. WCHD will contract with a waste disposal company for pick-up and proper disposal of sharps collected from the SEP.

LINKAGE TO CARE

Healthcare navigators will be made available to all participants in Wayne County's SEP. Individuals testing positive for HIV and (or) hepatitis will be given a voucher, provided by the Wayne County Health Department for an initial primary care visit which is necessary for an infectious disease physician referral. Clients will be provided active referral into care, with on-site staff assisting clients in setting up appointments whenever possible.

METHOD OF MARKETING THE SEP DELIVERY LOCATIONS

Trusted leaders within the drug using community and program partners, serving substance-abusing populations, will be the primary marketers of this program through word of mouth, and both passive and active referral. Traditional public media outlets will *NOT* be used to announce the services/locations in order to protect the confidentiality of the clientele and maintain trust with the targeted population.

**NOTE: It is vital for local and County Administrators to not publicly or openly advertise the location of the SEP to ensure that appropriate levels of trust are built amongst the PWI community.*

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

A comprehensive budget has been prepared for the twelve month SEP delivery period, including all equipment and supplies. It is anticipated that equipment use and consumable supplies will begin to increase in the second and third quarters of the program.

Sources for funding are currently being considered. These include opportunities for mini-grants and community funds, Trust Fund/Tobacco Settlement funds, as well as in-kind donations will be pursued. Other materials and services will be absorbed, such as printing. County partners have also agreed to donate staff and other goods as needed. (Attachment C – Budget)

ATTACHMENT A

SEP Intake Forms

First Visit Intake Form

Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	Site type (circle one):	Storefront	Mobile
Time:	Staff or Volunteer Name:		
NEP ID:	Wayne County Resident:	Yes	No
Age:	County, if not Wayne:		
Gender:	Male	Female	TransID male
Sexual Orientation:	Gay	Lesbian	Straight or Heterosexual
Race:	White	Black	Asian
Ethnicity:	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic (specify): _____	

Risk Assessment

Substance Use in the Past Month

For each substance, circle all routes used and circle the frequency that best describes how often client uses it overall.

Substance	Route				Frequency		
Heroin, specify type: white black tar	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Opana (mg _____)	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Other Opioids, specify: _____	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Amphetamine type stimulants (e.g., meth)	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Cannabis (Marijuana/Hashish)			Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Cocaine or crack	Inject	Sniff	Smoke		Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Sedatives (e.g., Xanax, Valium)	Inject			Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Other, specify: _____	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly

Injection and Sex Practices in the Past Month

Maximum times inject per day	Enter #: _____	
Share syringes to inject	Yes No	
Share syringes to divide drugs	Yes No	
Share other injection equipment (e.g., cooker, cotton, water)	Yes No	
Number of times the same needle used for injection	Enter #: _____	
Use a condom when have sex	Yes No	Did not have sex

Services Provided at Visit

Number of syringes returned (estimated if in sharps containers)	Enter #: _____	
Number of syringes given	Enter #: _____	
Provided risk reduction counseling	Yes No	
Referred to substance abuse treatment	Yes No	
Client ever tested for HIV?	Yes No	Referred? Yes No
If yes, month & year of last HIV test (mm/yyyy)		
If HIV positive status is disclosed, is client on medication for HIV?	Yes No	Referred? Yes No
Client ever received hepatitis C test?	Yes No	Referred? Yes No
Client ever received hepatitis A and/or hepatitis B vaccination?	Yes No	Referred? Yes No
Other services provided, specify: _____		

Other notes: _____

Repeat Visit Intake Form

Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	Site type (circle one):	Storefront	Mobile
Time:	Staff or Volunteer Name:		
NEP ID:			

Risk Assessment

Substance Use Since Last Visit

For each substance, circle all routes used and circle the frequency that best describes how often client uses it overall.

Substance	Route				Frequency		
Heroin, specify type: white black tar	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Opana (mg _____)	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Other Opioids, specify: _____	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Amphetamine type stimulants (e.g., meth)	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Cannabis (Marijuana/Hashish)			Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Cocaine or crack	Inject	Sniff	Smoke		Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Sedatives (e.g., Xanax, Valium)	Inject			Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Other, specify: _____	Inject	Sniff	Smoke	Oral	Daily	Weekly	Monthly

Injection and Sex Practices Since Last Visit

Maximum times inject per day	Enter #: _____	
Share syringes to inject	Yes No	
Share syringes to divide drugs	Yes No	
Share other injection equipment (e.g., cooker, cotton, water)	Yes No	
Number of times the same needle used for injection	Enter #: _____	
Use a condom when have sex	Yes No	Did not have sex

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Number of syringes returned (estimated if in sharps containers)	Enter #: _____	
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Provided risk reduction counseling	Yes No	
Referred to substance abuse treatment	Yes No	
Client ever tested for HIV?	Yes No	
If yes, month & year of last HIV test (mm/yyyy)		Referred? Yes No
If HIV positive status is disclosed, is client on medication for HIV?	Yes No →	Referred? Yes No
Client ever received hepatitis C test?	Yes No →	Referred? Yes No
Client ever received hepatitis A and/or hepatitis B vaccination?	Yes No →	Referred? Yes No

Other services provided, specify: _____

Other notes: _____

ATTACHMENT B

Wayne County SEP Budget Justification Twelve-Month Projection

Expenses

Office Supplies/Educational Materials (WCHD, Centerstone, Reid Health) \$745.00

HIV/HCV/IDU/Harm Reduction/Substance Abuse Treatment pamphlets, posters, materials supporting prevention among PWI, and general office supplies supporting SEP in Wayne County.

Syringe Exchange Supplies (Reid Health) \$2,532.00

These items will be materials specifically used for distribution to clients, to include disposable solid state syringes and clean injection kits:

- 29G x ½" x 1cc syringes 500/case x 3
- 28G x ½" x 1cc syringes 500/case x 2
- Band aids
- Condoms
- Wound Care Supplies
- Alcohol Swabs

Testing Materials (WCHD) \$6,610.00

- OraQuick Advance Rapid HIV test kits – 25/box
- OraQuick Advance Rapid HCV test kits – 100/box

Phlebotomy supplies for 12 months: alcohol swabs, cotton balls, bandages, vacutainer connectors, eclipse and butterfly needles, vacutainer SST tubes, tourniquets, disposable lancets

Sharps/Biohazard Waste Removal (Reid Health) \$3,235.00

- Sharps containers (1 gallon) 32/case x 5
- Sharps Disposal Service for 12 months

TOTAL HARD EXPENSES

\$13,122.00