The Case for Syringe Service Programs in Arizona

Sarah Fynmore
Policy Coordinator
602-831-7579
sfynmore@spwaz.org

Robert J. Devries
Chief of Police
Kingman Police Department
928-753-2191
rdevries@cityofkingman.gov
What Is This Training Going To Be About?

- Setting The Context
- Syringe Service Programs
- Kingman Harm Reduction Program
- SSP Legal Status in AZ
What Brings Chief Devries Here

Making a Difference in our Community
Mission: To end health disparities in AZ faced by those made vulnerable by drug use through harm reduction education, advocacy, and evidence-based programming.

- Statewide naloxone distribution program
- Street outreach
- Trainings on harm reduction, hepatitis/HIV, stimulants, needle-stick prevention, stigma, and more
- Policy research, consultation, and advocacy
Why Witnesses to Venezuela’s Catastrophic Corruption Keep Turning Up in the U.S.

If you have the goods on the Maduro government, Martin Rodil might be able to get you a deal.

By Ethan Bronner and Michael Smith
How Do Naloxone and Syringe Service Programs Fit Into The Larger Picture?

Setting the Context
Arizona Overdose Trends

• 2,325 Overdoses since June 2017
• Arizona experienced highest increase in fentanyl overdose death between 2016 and 2017 nationally
• 4 Arizonans per day die of overdose
• The hardest hit counties are Mohave, Pima, Graham, and Gila
Number of Suspected Opioid Overdose Related Events Without Fatality by Primary Care Area (PCA)
June 15, 2017 - August 23, 2018*

Overdoses Without Fatality

- > 60
- 46 - 60
- 31 - 45
- 16 - 30
- 1 - 15
- No Non-Fatal Overdoses

*647 overdoses (7.1%) were not assigned a PCA

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Data Source: AZ-PIERS and MEDSIS

SPW
HIV/Hep C Outbreak Risk

CDC: Mohave County Determined to be Experiencing or At-risk of Significant Increases in Hepatitis Infection or an HIV Outbreak Due to Injection Drug Use \textbf{July, 2018}
Arizona Opioid Epidemic Act

Access to Treatment
Access to Naloxone
Good Samaritan Law
Angel Initiative

Targeting Bad Actors
Prescriber Education
E-Prescribing
Responsible Dosage Limits
5-Day Limit on First Fills
Expediting Prior Authorization
Opioid Packaging
Stopping Doctor Shopping

Preventing Illegal Use
Harm Reduction is:
Meeting People Where They Are At

- Drug use & recovery exist along a continuum
  - It is complex and multifaceted
  - Abstinence is one of many possible goals
  - Many pathways to recovery
  - Supports ANY positive change

- Drug-related harm cannot be assumed
  - Drugs meet important needs
  - HR is not an attempt to minimize or ignore real harms

- People who use drugs are more than their drug use
  - Centers PWUD as the experts on their own care
What Are They? What do they do?
Talking Points

Syringe Service Programs
What SSPs Do

- HIV/Hep C Prevention and Testing
- Referrals to Tx
- Wound care
- Education
- Resource Navigation
- Harm Reduction Supplies
- True Continuum of Care
Isn’t it just enabling?

Decades of research show SSPs do NOT increase or enable drug use.

Let’s talk this through.
Need to have a Paradigm Shift

- Why we joined the force
- Evidence based programs vs perception
- Willing to take risk for betterment of community
- We can overcome stigma
Benefits to Law Enforcement

- Safer for the public and officers
- Building the level of trust between users and staff
- Positive alternatives to arrest
- Long term solution to disease
The Case For SSPs

Reduction in HIV/Hep C transmission
SSPs HIV/Hep C transmission rates reduce by 50-80%.
Reduce amount of contaminated syringes in circulation

Effective Gateway to Treatment
People referred to treatment from SSPs are 5x more likely to go and successfully complete treatment than non SSP participants
The Case for SSPs

Less syringe litter in parks
Recent study found eight-fold more improperly disposed syringes on walkthroughs in the city without NSPs (Miami) compared to a city with NSPs (San Francisco)

Decreases risk of needlestick to law enforcement
Incentivizes telling an officer if a needle is hidden. 1 in 3 officers may be stuck with a needle in their career; SSPs reduce law enforcement needlesticks by 66%
The Case for SSPs

Cost Effective
Hepatitis C Treatment: $24,000.
HIV Lifetime treatment cost: $350,000.
Clean Syringe: $.07

Reduces drug use
People who inject drugs are 5x as likely to enter drug treatment, and 3.5x as likely to reduce or stop injecting when they use an SSP.
Kingman Harm Reduction Program
Kingman Harm Reduction Program

- Provides free, safe, and anonymous harm reduction, HIV/HCV prevention supplies
  - Naloxone
  - Sterile injection equipment
  - Education & support
  - Sharps disposal
  - HIV rapid test
  - Healthcare, behavioral health, and drug treatment referrals
Launch of KHRP

Changing my perception
   Rock Star Mentors
   Evidence based program
   Granddaughters

Identifying Partners
   AHCCCS
   HIDTA
   Mohave County Health Department
   MSTEPP
   Sonoran Prevention Works

Identify Funding
   University of Baltimore/HIDTA grant
KHRP – Positive Outcomes

- SSP opened May 2018
- 45,000+ syringes distributed
- 1,100+ naloxone kits
- 57 reported OD reversals
- 183 referrals
SSP Legal Status In AZ
Current Policy on SSPs

Title 13. Criminal Code § 13-3415. It is unlawful for any person to deliver, possess with intent to deliver or manufacture with intent to deliver drug paraphernalia knowing, or under circumstances where one reasonably should know, that it will be used to ... introduce into the human body a drug in violation of this chapter. Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a class 6 felony.
Syringe Service Bill
HB 2148

Authorize syringe service programs
“A city, town, county or nongovernmental organization, including a local health department may establish and operate a syringe service program.”

Provide Immunity
“Notwithstanding title 13, chapter 34, an employee, volunteer or participant of a program established pursuant to section 36-795 may not be charged with or prosecuted for possession [of syringes].”

Zero Appropriations
What Would Happen After?

Fixed

Mobile
Current Status HB 2148

REFERENCE TITLE: syringe service programs; authorization

How a Bill becomes a Law in Arizona
1. First Reading
2. Second Reading (If Senate Bill)
3. Committee Hearings
4. House Reading
5. Causes
6. Third Reading
7. Crossing the Courtyard
8. Conference Committee
9. Final Vote
10. Governor

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fourth Legislature
First Regular Session 2019

HB 2148

Introduced by
Representative Rivero
Legalize Syringe Service 2019

#SSPsInAZ

GO FOR IT.

ROCKY II

Academy Award winner
BEST PICTURE

ROBERT CHARTOFF - IRWIN WINKLER - JOHN G. AVILDSEN
PRODUCTION UNIT

SYLVESTER STALLONE - "ROCKY" - TATIA SHIRE - BURT YOUNG

CARL WEATHERS - BURGESS MEREDITH - SYLVESTER STALLONE

DIRECTED BY
ROBERT CHARTOFF - JOHN G. AVILDSEN - IRWIN WINKLER

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
GEOFFREY WINKLER

MUSIC BY
BARRY MCCARTHY

PRODUCED BY
ROBERT CHARTOFF - IRWIN WINKLER

STARRING
SYLVESTER STALLONE - "ROCKY II" - TATIA SHIRE - BURT YOUNG

CARL WEATHERS - BURGESS MEREDITH - BILL CONTI

DISTRIBUTED BY UNITED INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
BRIAN SMITH

A.S.C.

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
ROBERT CHARTOFF - SYLVESTER STALLONE

SPW
Thank you!

Robert J. Devries
Chief of Police
Kingman Police Department
928-753-2191
rdevries@cityofkingman.gov

Sarah Fynmore
602-831-7579
sfynmore@spwaz.org
www.spwaz.org