

Harney County Report

ACDP Health Equity Mini-grant Reporting Template

Data

We served the community of PWID with our grant. There was not a syringe service program in Eastern Oregon prior to our program starting up. We had an estimate from law enforcement that there were approximately 100-150 PWID throughout Harney County.

Reflection Narrative

This grant helped fund the startup of our Syringe Services Program. 1 staff and 1 volunteer were able to attend harm reduction training at the beginning of the grant cycle which provided a framework for the work of the syringe service program.

With the resource of the Oregon Syringe Service Program manual, the volunteer put together the Harney county syringe service program manual, policies, and procedures and fliers regarding safer injection practices as part of her public health degree internship. She also developed a resource list which is included in each exchange "kit". She logged 300 hours of time doing this project.

We have advertised the program through peer-based efforts, posters in the health department exam rooms and local food banks. We plan to expand that through posters/fliers in the other major PCP office in the county and posters placed around town at the library, early child center, local parks, single-room occupancy hotels, convenience stores, smoke shops, cannabis stores

The director of the health department (myself) is the staff person involved in the program. We were successful in getting the program up and running in May and are keeping an exchange log of each encounter. Thus far in 7 weekly exchange opportunities we have had clients attend on 4 of those days. We have received approximately 900 syringes in 9 sharps containers, issued 1200 syringes and 12 sharps containers, dispensed 250 condoms and have done 1 rapid HCV and 1 rapid HIV test, drawn 1 HCV and 1 HIV test to be sent in.

We have purchased 1 outdoor medical waste container (sharps) which has been paid for and will be delivered mid-August and installed outside the health department so syringes can at least be disposed of safely at all hours of the day/night.

In my opinion the most essential part of this program startup was the planning phase. That included assessing community needs, stakeholder identification and engagement, developing procedures, holding an all health department staff training, meeting with community stakeholders independently and then providing a joint meeting where their concerns were addressed was essential to the success of the program. We engaged with city mayors, county commissioners, librarian, school officials, EMS supervisor, Hospital CEO, PCP's, law enforcement, pharmacies, faith-based recovery program, a tribal counselor, OHA staff, Symmetry Care, and EOCCO.

The biggest limitation is availability of staff to do this on a daily basis. I have carved out 1.5 hours every Friday afternoon to do the syringe exchange program but have had 3 occasions when PWID's showed up at other times to do an exchange when the SSP staff was not available. These were missed opportunities but due to staff shortages could not be avoided. An additional limitation is lack of funding for Naloxone purchase for distribution.

Participation in this grant has afforded me (director) the opportunity to be involved with the HIV, Hep C, and Opioid prevention programs at OHA. As a result, I was put in touch with Mike Stensrud who, through a grant he received earlier this year, is going to help us put on an Overdose and Naloxone awareness event in September of this year. Through that I hope to increase awareness of opioid overdose, increase availability of Naloxone to all interested stakeholders in the community, increase number of RX's of Naloxone dispensed by Safeway and Rite-Aid pharmacies, increase PCP RX's written for patients who also receive oral opioid RX's, and finally increase awareness of the syringe service program.

This grant has created a ripple effect of awareness and prevention in our community and throughout EOCCO. I have been asked by the EOCCO Clinician Advisory Panel/Opioid work group to give a presentation at one of their quarterly meetings. They are hoping to use our program as a model for other programs throughout the EOCCO region.

Sharing

Please include any materials created with the grants, such as flyers, posters, brochures, assessment reports, and any relevant handouts. Feel welcome to publicize or share about the impact of this grant so the community can learn about the ways we are working together. We in-turn want to do the same and share the great things you're doing and to publicize the partnership between your organization and our health equity work group. Providing a suitable photo of your program/project/activity that can be shared would be appreciated!

Financials Attach a budget report that shows both budgeted and actual numbers for the program or project to date. If you prefer, you may use a budget format common to your organization as long as it addresses the items requested. Please describe any "In Kind budget items or "Other" revenues and expenses in the section provided.

Other attachments If you would like to provide additional, pertinent information about your program, project or organization, please use the space provided. Attachments are permitted.