



Jim Hart
Sheriff – Coroner
County of Santa Cruz

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California Department of Public Health
Office of AIDS
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Dear Director Smith,

I am writing to you regarding the application from the Harm Reduction Coalition of Santa Cruz County to run a mobile syringe services program in some of the outlying communities in our county. In the past I have always supported and advocated for our County Syringe Services Program due to health concerns for our residents.

I do not support a new or secondary program where there will be little to no oversight and no other services will be offered. Community members across our county are speaking out against this secondary program and it is clear there is very little community support, will or tolerance for this program.


I am not aware of any outreach by the Harm Reduction Coalition to the proposed communities they would serve. The Board of Supervisors, the business community, the Parks Department, the schools and I were not contacted about this proposed program. If outreach were done, I believe the Harm Reduction Coalition would hear that this program is not wanted or needed.

We have a compassionate and caring community, however, many residents are weary of the drug abuse that has plagued our county for many years. Residents want to visit our parks, beaches and open spaces without fear of syringe litter. I am sure the Harm Reduction Coalition is well intentioned, however, simply handing out more syringes is a very simplistic approach to the highly complex issue of addiction.

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Thank you for carefully examining this application and weighing the need for a secondary syringe services program in our county.

Best regards,



Jim Hart, Sheriff-Coroner