



City of Grand Forks  
Staff Report  
City Council – March 2, 2020

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Agenda Item: Syringe Service Program Update

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Submitted by: Debbie Swanson, Director, Health Department  
Michael Dulitz, Opioid Response Project Coordinator, Health Department

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Staff Recommended Action: Information Only

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Council Action:

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Health Department began operating the Any Positive Change (APC) Project Syringe Service Program on October 18, 2019. In September 2019, the Health Department requested concurrence with the decision to operate the Syringe Service Program from the City Council. During the discussion on concurrence, Council President Sande requested an update on the program be provided after the first of the year.

The APC Project Syringe Service Program is funded through the State Opioid Response Grant for staff time and private funds for injecting supplies. No city or state general funds are used for the operation of the program.

**ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Since the start of program operation, through February 25, 2020, the APC Project has seen 35 clients in 100 client visits. Clients served represent a range in ages from 19 to 55, with a median age of 31. Females represent 62% and males 32% of the clients served. Clients who are homeless (6) or temporarily housed (7) represent 43% of the clients served. All clients have reported methamphetamine as a substance of use and 44% (15/34) have reported opioid use.

The program has distributed 3,093 syringes and received back 2,427 syringes for a return rate

of 78.5%. HIV screening has been provided to 60% of clients and Hepatitis C screening to 51%. A total of 48 two dose naloxone kits have been provided through the program, with two reported opioid overdose reversals. In addition, 168 sharps containers, 551 condoms, and 145 fentanyl test strips have been provided.

The most commonly provided client referrals were for healthcare and behavioral health (10% of visits). These services were discussed on 39% of visits. Substance use counseling referral was provided on 6% of visits and discussed in 24% of client visits. Other referrals or services provided include STD testing (5%), employment (4%), housing (6%), Women's Way Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, NDQuits Tobacco Cessation, and immunizations (3%). Spectra Health has been the most frequent referral destination.

In addition to the client based efforts, the program purchased a public access sharps drop off which is available in the lobby at Grand Forks Public Health. Approximately 500 syringes have been collected through community sharps drop off.

#### **SUPPORT MATERIALS:**