



# **Syringe Service Programming Presentation**

July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Town of Wellfleet:  
Board of Health

Presenters: Eliza Morrison, Brad Badgley, Dan Gates



## Mission Statement

*The AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod saves lives through prevention, education and life-sustaining services that address public health crises to build healthy communities across the Cape and Islands.*

# ASGCC Team Representatives

**Eliza Morrison**

Director of Harm Reduction Services  
emorrison@asgcc.org  
508.778.1954

**Brad Badgley**

Senior Director of Harm Reduction  
& Sexual Health Services  
bbadgley@asgcc.org  
508.487.8311

**Dan Gates**

President & CEO  
dgates@asgcc.org  
508.487.9445



# ASGCC Presentation Agenda



- Harm Reduction Services Overview
- Syringe Service Programs (SSP)
- Board of Health Involvement
- Q&A + NARCAN Training



# **ASGCC**

## **Harm Reduction**

### **Services Overview**



# Agency Overview: ASGCC's Harm Reduction Services

- Overdose prevention & education
- Free NARCAN
- Syringe disposal & syringe retrieval services
- Access to sterile syringes + ancillary safer injection supplies
- HIV, HCV & STI testing, counseling + treatment
- Access to PrEP (a pill taken daily to prevent HIV) & PEP
- Linkage to care for all things related to health
- POST (**P**ost **O**verdose **S**upport **T**eam)
- Naloxbox access + installation/training/refills
- Mobile unit

# Mobile service delivery

ASGCC has one large Mobile Outreach Van (MOV), and one smaller MOV.

The smaller van provides almost all of the testing and harm reduction services that we offer while meeting people exactly where they are at, in a stigma-free and confidential environment, which allows for easy collaboration with local partners.

Mobile delivery of services is known to be highly successful, especially in more rural areas where barriers to transportation can exist.



# Agency Overview: Other Services Offered

Services not covered today:

## SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV, including:

- Medical Case Management – 350 clients
- Food & Nutrition – including 50+ meals delivered daily in Outer Cape (mostly Ptown and Truro)
- Residential Program – 10 units
- Housing Supports

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

- Groups for people living with HIV
- Groups for trauma supports
- Groups related to Harm Reduction Services, such as Crystal Free Group



# Why do SSP services matter to Wellfleet?

- Gateway back into healthcare and social services for people who use drugs (PWUD)
  - prevention programs
  - recovery supports, such as medication for opioid use disorder
  - connections to community resources and services
- Provide FREE direct services to PWUD, including:
  - cost-free and stigma-free testing and linkage to care and supports within the community
  - harm reduction strategies and supplies
  - safe disposal of syringes (including pick-up services)
  - access to drug-checking materials to reduce overdose risk
  - NARCAN training & distribution
- Community NARCAN training events
- Towns with SSP programs have lower rates of overdose, HIV & HCV
- Towns with brick-and-mortar SSPs (not being proposed here): no data showing any increase in crime, etc.
- Cost-effective way to save taxpayer money – no local (town) dollars are needed

# Expanding Overdose Prevention Services: Board of Health Role

- Syringe Services Programming, brief history
  - First two syringe services programs authorized in 1995 (Provincetown & Cambridge)
  - Early 2000's: syringes are decriminalized
  - 2015: State Supreme Court Case
    - Syringe services are fully legal, anywhere in Massachusetts. Anyone can distribute.
  - 2016: Section 215, Boards of Health vote to “support” DPH funding of SSPs.
    - This vote is not for town funding, but to release State DPH funding.
    - Town votes to “approve” programs are no longer required:

*Section 215. The department of public health may implement needle exchange programs for the exchange of needles in cities and towns. Prior to implementation of a needle exchange program, approval shall be obtained from the board of health in the hosting city or town. The city or town shall, in a manner determined by the department, provide notice of such approval to the department.*

*Not later than 1 year after the implementation of a needle exchange program, the department shall report the results of the program and any recommendations by filing the same with the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on health care financing and the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on public safety and homeland security.*

# Expanding Overdose Prevention Services: Board of Health Role

## Immediate Action Items:

- Health Agent places “ASGCC Harm Reduction and Syringe Service Programming” on the BOH meeting agenda
- ASGCC presents to BOH
- BOH votes whether or not to support DPH funding of SSP
- Health Agent signs a letter of support for DPH funding of town’s SSP
  - See next slide for sample of letter.

## Collaboration Going Forward:

- Plan Harm Reduction events and community trainings
- Communicate with local stakeholders, collaborate
- Expand NARCAN access, including:
  - All municipality staff receive NARCAN training
  - Unique community distribution, such as Naloxboxes, etc.

**[TOWN LETTERHEAD]**

Kevin Cranston, MDiv  
Director, Bureau of Infectious Disease  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
250 Washington Street, 3rd Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Subject: AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod

Dear Mr. Cranston,

On behalf of the [TOWN NAME] Board of Health I am writing to you regarding the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod. On [DATE], the [TOWN NAME] Board of Health voted positively to support the syringe exchange program proposed by the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod at their proposed location at [AGENCY LOCATION NEAREST THE TOWN].

The Board of Health supports the various AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod programs outlined in their prevention and screening proposal including screenings, overdose prevention education, syringe services, NARCAN distribution, health services and substance abuse referrals and treatment.

If you need anything further regarding this decision don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[NAME OF HEALTH AGENT]

Health Agent – Town of [TOWN]

[TOWN NAME] Board of Health:

Board of Health member – Chairperson  
Board of Health member  
Board of Health member  
Board of Health member  
Board of Health member - (absent)

**[LETTERHEAD FOOTER WITH CONTACT INFORMATION]**

# Q&A + NARCAN Training

**Any Questions?**



**NARCAN TRAINING  
(If time allows.)**



# Visit ASGCC's Office Locations

## **Ptown Drop-in Center**

301 Commercial Street  
Provincetown, MA 02657  
**508.487.8311**

## **Provincetown Site**

96 Bradford Street  
Provincetown, MA 02657  
**508.487.9445**



## **Hyannis Site**

428 South Street  
Hyannis, MA 02601  
**508.778.1954**

## **Martha's Vineyard Site**

517 State Road  
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568  
**774.994.7935**

## **Mobile Outreach Van: Falmouth & Upper-Cape**

**774.763.6656**