



August 11, 2019

To: Office of Aids, [SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:SEPApplication@cdph.ca.gov)

From: Butte-Glenn Medical Society Board of Directors

Re: Public comments for Northern Valley Harm Reduction Coalition

To the Office of AIDS:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Butte-Glenn Medical Society, this letter supports the efforts of the Northern Valley Harm Reduction Coalition (NVHRC), our colleagues and partners in the Butte County Opioid Coalition. We support the creation of a syringe services program in the Chico area. NVHRC's proposal provides for disposal of syringes, which is a great need in our community.

As aligned with public health organizations like the California Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, needs-based syringe services programs have proven to decrease the rate of new HIV infections and Hepatitis C infections. These programs also shown an increase in the number of persons using drugs who enter and complete substance abuse treatment, while not increasing injection drug use.

If the Syringe Services Program is approved, we understand that the Northern Valley Harm Reduction Coalition will be required to report the volume of needles dispensed and retrieved. This data will help us understand if more collection and clean-up efforts are needed. For helping prevent communicable diseases and establishing data for future programs, we believe NVHRC's proposal is a critical first step.

We have read the letter from Chief O'Brien, who is also part of our coalition and a greatly respected partner protecting public health on many fronts. We agree that the locations proposed by NVHRC are not ideal for the general public. We are confident NVHRC and our coalition can find more ideal locations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Alonso".

David Alonso, MD  
President

