

LATH Resolution - A0003

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Lucerne Area Town Hall to serve as the official local community representatives to work with the District 3 supervisor and other agencies as needed to provide citizen input, direction, and guidance on issues related to the town of Lucerne including but not limited to public health, public safety, planning, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2008, the Board of Supervisors authorized a clean needle and syringe exchange program based on Assembly Bill 547; and

WHEREAS, according to Public Health in their 2018 report, "from a local disease surveillance standpoint, it is difficult to draw an accurate association between SEP activities and communicable disease data"; and

WHEREAS, a report to the Board of Supervisors has not been provided by the SEP since 2018; and

WHEREAS, California Department of Public Health SEP guidelines requires that SEP programs must implement a community relations plan that records adverse and/or positive incidents between law enforcement and SEP staff, volunteers or participants and also must document concerns expressed by program participants, community members and law enforcement and makes a good faith effort to address any reasonable concerns; and

WHEREAS, numerous Lucerne residents have informed the Lucerne Area Town Hall, that when they approach the SEP staff with concerns, SEP staff does not appear to document community concerns; and

WHEREAS, numerous Lucerne residents have informed the Lucerne Area Town Hall that when they approach the SEP staff with concerns, it is reported that SEP staff respond to community concerns in a way that is hostile, adversarial, and unresponsive to community concerns, and does not appear to be making a good faith effort to document or address any reasonable concerns; and

WHEREAS, The Lucerne Area Town Hall has received reports from community members, that the local Syringe Exchange Program may still be providing meth pipes to drug users as well as syringes, in violation of County of Lake BOS Resolution Amending Resolution 2008-42 (Nov 2, 2021) which forbids the distribution of "any glassware used to smoke drugs."; and

WHEREAS, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of local residents reporting to the Lucerne Area Town Hall describing a rise in crime in the areas where the SEP operates, a rise of improperly discarded drug paraphernalia, and other adverse effects in the community resulting from the SEP's apparent mismanagement and lack of oversight; and

WHEREAS, section 6 of the County of LAKE BOS Resolution Amending Resolution 2008-42 requires that SEP "staff is directed to provide all data regarding the Syringe Exchange Program, its benefits and adverse effects as well as all possible strategies on continuing the program within 90 days." effective Nov 2nd, 2021; and

WHEREAS, over 200 days have elapsed since the 90 day reporting requirement was initiated and the SEP has not provided all data regarding its program, its programs benefits, its adverse effects, as well as strategies on continuing the program to the County Board of Supervisors

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lucerne Area Town Hall Council of Lucerne, California formally urges the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake to:

- 1) Revoke the authorization of the SEP program, citing the SEPs non compliance with section 6 of Resolution Amending Resolution 2008-42, its non compliance with CDPH guidelines requiring good faith efforts and documenting community concerns, among other issues; and
- 2) Pass a county motion requiring that any future SEP program being considered by the County of Lake that intends to provide services within the unincorporated area of Lucerne must also obtain approval by the Lucerne Area Town Hall prior to delivery of SEP services within the unincorporated area of Lucerne.
- 3) Consider the creation of a County appointed SEP Regulatory Oversight Committee (SEPROC), comprised of community members and a representative from the County of Lake Department of Public Health and consider the SEPROC be granted authority to do random checks on SEP programs with the scope of reviewing random samples of documents, as well as field audits to ensure the SEPs compliance with county, state, and federal guidelines and requirements, and a requirement that SEPs must cooperate with SEPROC audits and random compliance checks or be subject to immediate revocation of authorization by the County of Lake Board of Supervisors.

The Foregoing Resolution was introduced before the Lucerne Area Town Hall and passed by the following vote on the 6th day of June, 2022

AYES:

NOES: None

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING:

LATH CHAIR,

X


Lucerne Area Town Hall