

HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County

2020 Harm Reduction Services

DENISE LOPEZ
HARM REDUCTION SERVICES MANAGER

What Is HEPPAC

- HEPPAC is a Harm Reduction agency, the first of its kind in Oakland. Today we are still committed to challenging stigmas and normalizing awareness in regards to our community and the folks that we serve.
- In July of 1992, almost 30 years ago, a group of community organizers including AIDS activists, health care providers and active and recovering drug users united together to develop a needle exchange program, known as the Alameda County Exchange (ACE) in West Oakland to address the high rate of HIV infections among intravenous drug users (IDUs).
- In 1994, HIV Education And Prevention Project Of Alameda County, once known as ACE became a 501c3 Non Profit. We have been operating as HEPPAC ever since, providing Syringe Access services available to the black and brown communities throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Needle Exchange programs have long been underground and illegal, but HEPPAC has fought hard and long, and has paved the way by encouraging and convincing the lawmakers of Alameda County, and Oakland in particular to making Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) legal, and providing Standing Orders.

What is Harm Reduction?

Harm Reduction is working with people to help reduce harm that can be caused by taking part in risky behaviors. We provide people with tools and support as well as education to empower folks to be safer in whatever choices one may make. We do this with respect dignity and care for our people. During this pandemic we include the necessary PPE and opportunities for self care that might otherwise not be available.

Harm Reduction During Covid

- Plastic face shields/Masks
- Hand Sanitizer
- Syringe Access as needed
- Condom Distribution
- Assistance to Safer Ground Hotels
- Smoke Pipe Distribution
- Mobile Outreach 4 Days a Week
- HEP C and HIV Testing
- Medical Assisted Treatment (methadone, suboxone, Naltrexone, etc..)
- Mobile Medical Services



Services offered During Covid 19

All the changes during the Pandemic:

- Food Truck Style Exchange
- Social Distancing (Orange Cones)
- Acupuncture with N95 mask, Face shield and Gloves
- TeleHealth for MAT Services

Whew, The Sky Didn't fall down...

- Hand washing Stations
- Teams of 3-4 People per work shift
- Drop in Center No Entry, No Shower No Laundry
- Food Pantry only/ Drop off Pre Prep food (World Kitchen)



Still Saving Lives

With the rise in overdoses during this Pandemic. We have responded by making more Fentanyl Test Strips and Narcan readily accessible, making sure folks can have it with them at all times. We've created Narcan Keychain bags. That can be carried all the time.



Questions / Comments?

CONTACT US

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