

Report of the Needle Exchange Work Group

following May 31, 2006 session

draft

Many of the NEWG members considered the location of the needle exchange van at 14th and G St. to be a pivotal issue. The NEWG supports the action steps listed below with the understanding that the van will be moved from the 14th and G St. location. However, the group was unable to reach consensus on the process for vacating 14th and G St., i.e.,

- The following statement was supported by seven of the members: “The NE van will leave 14th and G St. following a *reasonable* transition period.”
- The following statement was supported by four of the members: “The NE van will leave 14th and G St., but not until a viable new location is found.”

Action Steps

After re-locating NE van

Increase Community Action

1. Better coordinate services through provider meetings
2. Create a neighborhood NE support group

Expand Ways to for the NE Van to Serve Clients

1. Promote pharmacy as distribution point for purchase
2. Health Department/contractor focus more on delivery
3. Find additional locations for van and spend less time at each
4. Establish new locations for NE van, but do so in a flexible manner by adapting to changing circumstances
5. Extend hours of NE at health department
6. More drop boxes near 14th and G as part of transition period

Reduce Perceived Negative Impacts of NE Van – possible actions at the discretion of community(ies) to be served by NE van

1. Add safety support for school buses
2. No NE within a “safe and reasonable” distance from children
3. If requested by community, add neighborhood security patrol, either volunteer or hired
4. Discourage loitering after exchange and related services
5. Use an RV or other vehicle that allows clients to go inside to receive comprehensive services, as desired by clients

Conduct Research to Guide Future Action

1. Continue to evaluate success of NE program
2. Research whether other funding sources can add resources to NE van
3. Research who are most frequent NE users/clients and change service delivery to meet their needs