

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: October 22, 2024

[ X ] Consent [ ] Regular  
[ ] Ordinance [ ] Public Hearing

Department

Submitted By: Community Services

Submitted For: Ryan White Program

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title:** Staff recommends motion to receive and file: Palm Beach County Syringe Services Program (SSP) Annual Report 2024. The report reflects services provided during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

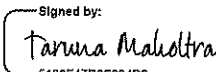
**Summary:** Pursuant to the Palm Beach County Infections Disease Elimination Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2019-026), the Palm Beach County Community Services Department (CSD), submitted an annual report to the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on August 1, 2024. Palm Beach County (PBC) has one (1) approved SSP operator in Rebel Recovery (Rebel Recovery) FL, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Non-profit, HIV Services and Recovery Community Organization located in West Palm Beach, Florida. Rebel Recovery provided SSP services through the Florida Access to Syringe and Health Services (FLASH) Exchange program. The FLASH Exchange program has operated since April 1, 2021, as the first community-based syringe services program in Florida. Participants receive service exclusively through a mobile unit with rotating service locations in West Palm Beach, Lake Worth Beach, Riviera Beach, and South Bay.

During the reported period, the FLASH Exchange served 257 unduplicated clients. FLASH Exchange collected 93,720 used syringes and distributed 85,929 clean/unused syringes, resulting in a net decrease of 7,791 syringes. In addition, 1,271 cases of Narcan/Naloxone were distributed resulting in 455 reported overdose reversals. During the reported period, Rebel Recovery expanded FLASH Exchange’s HIV and HCV testing capacity. FLASH Exchange also expanded access to other programs, using the mobile unit to enroll new clients in harm reduction and peer recovery support services, even when they were not specifically seeking needle exchanges. **No County funds are required to operate the needle exchange program, as the Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA) expressly prohibits the use of county funds.** Countywide (HH).

**Background and Justification:** In June 2019, the Florida Legislature approved IDEA, as codified in Section 381.0038(4), Florida Statutes, authorizing the BCC to establish a sterile needle and syringe exchange program within its geographic boundaries. In July 2019, the BCC adopted the Infectious Disease Elimination Ordinance (Chapter 13, Article VI Section 13.14, 13.15 of the Palm Beach County code) pursuant to section 381.0038(4), Florida Statutes (2019). In March 2020, the BCC entered into a letter of agreement with FDOH (R2020-0210), in which the BCC agreed that the SSP will operate in accordance with the requirements of the IDEA, including annual reporting of specific data related to the SSP. Submission of the Syringe Services Program Annual Report 2024 to FDOH satisfies BCC reporting requirements for the Palm Beach County SSP.

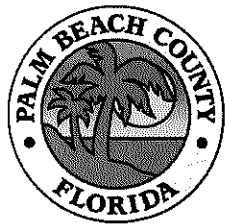
**Attachments:**

- 1. Palm Beach County Syringe Services Program 2024 Annual Report Cover Letter
- 2. Palm Beach County Syringe Services Program 2024 Annual Report

Recommended By:  9/23/2024  
Department Director Date

Approved By:  10/3/24  
Assistant County Administrator Date





**Community Services Department**

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West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
(561) 355-4700  
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www.pbcgov.com/communityservices



**Palm Beach County  
Board of County  
Commissioners**

- Maria Sachs, Mayor
- Maria G. Marino, Vice Mayor
- Gregg K. Weiss
- Michael A. Barnett
- Marci Woodward
- Sara Baxter
- Mack Bernard

**County Administrator**

Verdenia C. Baker

*"An Equal Opportunity  
Affirmative Action Employer"*

Official Electronic Letterhead

August 1, 2024

Florida Department of Health,

Please find attached report updating you on the progress of the Palm Beach County Syringe Services Program (SSP). Palm Beach County has one Approved SSP Operator in Rebel Recovery FL, Inc., a 501(c)(3) HIV Services and Recovery Community Organization located in West Palm Beach, Florida. This report reflects services provided during the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30th, 2024.

Rebel Recovery FL Inc. has provided SSP services through the Florida Access to Syringe and Health Services (FLASH) Exchange program. FLASH has operated since April 1, 2021 as the first and only community-based syringe services program in Florida. Participants receive services exclusively through a mobile unit with rotating service locations in West Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Lake Worth Beach, Riviera Beach, and South Bay.

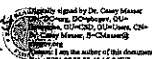
During this reported period, the FLASH Exchange provided direct services to 257 unduplicated clients. FLASH Exchange collected 93,720 used syringes and distributed 85,929 clean/unused syringes, resulting in a net decrease of 7,791 syringes in our community. In addition, 1,271 cases of Narcan/naloxone were distributed resulting in 455 reported overdose reversals.

During the reporting period, Rebel Recovery expanded FLASH Exchange HIV and HCV testing capacity. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative funds allowed 51 (19.8%) unduplicated clients to receive at least one HIV test throughout the reporting period. FLASH Exchange also expanded access to other programs, using the mobile unit to enroll new clients into harm reduction and peer recovery support services when they were not specifically seeking needle exchange.

Please Let us know if you require any further information regarding the SSP in Palm Beach County.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Casey  
Messer*



**Dr. Casey Messer  
Program Manager  
Palm Beach County**



# Syringe Services Program Annual Report 2024

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August 1, 2024

**Palm Beach County  
Board of County  
Commissioners**

Maria Sachs, Mayor  
Maria G. Marino, Vice Mayor  
Gregg K. Weiss  
Michael A. Barnett  
Marci Woodward  
Sara Baxter  
Mack Bernard

**County Administrator**  
Verdenia C. Baker



Palm Beach County Community Services Department (CSD) Syringe Services Program (SSP) compiled data from all active Needle/Syringe Exchange Operators in Palm Beach County to prepare this data report.

<b>Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)</b>	
Number of participants served	257
Number of used syringes/needles received	93,720
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	85,929
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	114
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	Unknown**
Number of participants tested for HIV	51
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	5
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	46
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	17
Number of naloxone kits distributed	1271
Number of reported overdose reversals	455
<b>Participant Demographics (Participants Enrolled July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)</b>	
Black/African American	23
White	109
Non-Hispanic Asian	1
Native American/Alaska Native	0
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	6
Hispanic	27*
Non-Hispanic	111*
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Age Ranges</b>	
18–24 years	5
25–29 years	16
30–39 years	56
40–49 years	40
50–59 years	13
60+ years	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>139</b>

\*Total equals 138 due to one participant refusal to answer ethnicity question.

\*\*Due to the anonymous nature of syringe services programs, we are unable to verify enrollment into drug counseling or treatment after referral.