



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

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Subject: Response to Comments on the "Guidance for the Implementation of a Single System of Promotion and Program Goals"

We appreciate your comments on the "Guidance for the Implementation of a Single System of Promotion and Program Goals." This document summarizes the guidance and direction the Department has provided to Med-Project and Inmar in previous meetings to facilitate implementation and consistency. For this reason, we will not grant additional time for comments.

As a clarification, the document was intended to provide guidance on the implementation approach to a single system of promotion and the program's goals. The goals should include collection amounts, education, and promotion per County Ordinance No. 04736, "Ordinance," section 4.116.140(b).

Please find below the Department's response to your comments:

1. Response to Inmar Intelligence and Med-Project on "Training Requirements are the responsibility of host sites, transporters, and disposal facilities, not operators":

The education component of the Stewardship Plan's goals shall include San Mateo County residents and participating entities.

The Department agrees that it is not the Stewardship Organization's responsibility to train vendors, transporters, and disposal facilities staff; however, they are required to ensure that there are procedures in place for these entities to operate under and comply with all applicable federal and state law rules and guidelines per section 4.116.040 (d) of the Ordinance. For example, contract agreements may include stipulations regarding regulatory compliance.

Regarding the drop-off sites or host sites, the applicability of training requirements for their staff depends on the type of activities they perform related to the management of unwanted covered drugs. Inmar Intelligence and Med-Project have provided similar options for collection, replacement, and shipping of containers with unwanted covered drugs at the host sites, where 1)

the kiosks are "self-serviced" by the host site's staff or 2) there is a full technician-assisted system by staff or agents from the Stewardship Organization.

The Department agrees that the Stewardship Plans shall facilitate the participation of the host sites since they do this voluntarily. The Ordinance does not aim to generate burdensome requirements for the host sites or their staff; this should be reflected in the Stewardship Plans. The Stewardship Organizations should facilitate any training of the host site's staff since they become subject to these requirements when acting as collectors for the Stewardship Plans.

For these reasons, the Department supports the full technician-assisted system. Alternative options for collecting, replacing, and shipping containers with unwanted covered drugs, such as the self-service option, will be approved if these offer a more expedited service, comply with applicable laws and regulations, and the host site's staff receive any applicable training from the Stewardship Organizations.

The guidance document will include clarifying language about the education requirements for vendors, transporters, and designated facilities participating in the Stewardship Plan.

2. Response to Med-Project on "Biennial survey requirements should be eliminated or adjusted to avoid spurious or invalid survey results":

Non-English speakers must have the opportunity to respond to the survey. The specific results shall be measured separately from the total results of the survey so the Stewardship Organizations can assess the effectiveness of the outreach and implement improvement for specific demographics.

At this time, the County does not require a specific quantity of respondents who are non-English speakers. However, the survey results should include information on the statistics within each language so that future outreach and program goals can be created.

3. Response to "Outreach materials should be updated every four years as part of the updated stewardship plan process":

The Department's goal is to ensure continuous improvement in the outreach of the Stewardship Plans. A two-year period to update the outreach material allows for prompt implementation of the results of the biennial surveys.

The guidance document will include language to allow a grace period of one year for Stewardship Organizations to replace existing printed outreach materials with updated ones.

4. Response to "Med-Project shall coordinate with other program operators based on the coordination approach previously proposed for the state of California and multiple other California Counties":

Although some of the language in "Appendix A: Example Outline of Principles for the Single System of Promotion" aligns with the County's ordinance goals and the Department's guidance, there are some other contradictions. For example, the Department discussed with Inmar Intelligence representatives the drop-off kiosks would be of the same color to represent a single

system of promotion, which was verbally accepted and documented in multiple communications.

It appears that your principles have been procured directly from your agreement with another Stewardship Organization. Any external agreement among Stewardship Organizations must align and comply with the requirements of our Ordinance and guidance document for the Implementation of a Single System of Promotion and Program Goals.

The above-mentioned changes have been incorporated in the "Guidance for the Implementation of a Single System of Promotion and Program Goals."

If you have any questions, please contact Liliana Mejia, Program Supervisor, at (650) 339-9791, or lmejia@smcgov.org.

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