

COCHISE COUNTY

Community Used Sharps Disposal Program

Cochise Health & Social Services
Mary Gomez, RN, MN



Public Programs...Personal Service

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Community Used Sharps Disposal Program

- County-wide community used sharps disposal program
- Low cost container supply service
- Currently no comprehensive program within County
- Goals: 1) Improve the safety and well being of County residents
2) Protect the environment



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What are Sharps?

- Hypodermic needles and syringes used to administer medication
 - Lancets or fingerstick devices to collect blood for testing
 - Needle and tubing systems for infusing intravenous and subcutaneous medicines
 - Connection needles used for home hemodialysis
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- Currently end up in home and public trash cans or flushed down toilets
 - Improper disposal puts people (sanitation and sewage treatment workers, janitors, housekeepers, family members and children) at risk for needle stick injuries and/or potentially fatal infection with viruses (Hep B and C and HIV).

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm278851.htm>



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Why do we need to promote safe disposal in our communities?

- More diseases and conditions (diabetes, cancer, allergies, arthritis, HIV) being managed outside of hospitals and doctors' offices
- Number of sharps used in homes and work offices is increasing
- Pets are being treated in homes and livestock are being treated on farms
- EPA estimates that more than 3 billion needles and other sharps are used in US homes each year
- Proper sharps disposal guidelines and programs vary by jurisdiction

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm278851.htm>



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Cochise Health & Social Services Program Proposal

- Collaboration with County SO and local fire departments
- Two phase program
- Goal: free used sharps disposal for all County residents at 5 – 10 locations throughout the County within one year of program launch, low cost accessible containers
- MedReturn Unit Partners and other community organizations to assist with this goal



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Program Management

- CHSS to monitor and train staff at each CHSS location
- Order supplies as needed for the program
- Maintain contracts and agreements, promote program
- Media materials will provide one email address and phone number
- Website with detailed program information and FAQ's
- Continually work with SO and all partners to ensure smooth and efficient operations so their crucial participation can continue



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Program Phase I:

- All five (5) CHSS locations
- Currently have capacity to accept and dispose of the used sharps through our Stericycle contracts
- No additional disposal costs
- Service for private sector only
- Residents may dispose of sharps at any collection location as long as using an appropriate sealed container
- Rapid roll-out after staff training on accepting used sharps and distributing containers



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Purchase/distribute sharps containers

△-Benson – 25 △-Douglas – 50 △-Willcox – 25
△-Bisbee – 50 △-Sierra Vista – 50



- Quotes from three independent vendors – approx. \$375 to stock our clinics
- CHSS will sell the containers to the public at a cost of \$5/unit
- All of the funds collected will be used to support the program and future expenses
- Ongoing costs will be covered by grant funds & disposal container sales



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Phase I “Wellness Briefs”:

- Developing a wellness feature providing targeted wellness and prevention information to our program participants
- “Wellness Briefs” centered around a variety of wellness and prevention tips and information for those affected by conditions that would require use of sharps
- Sent monthly, subscribers able to unsubscribe at any time

Phase I Media Campaign:

- Website and media campaign using wide variety of local resources to distribute the information



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Phase I Cost Recap:

1. Red Stericycle Unit w/Hazardous Waste pickups. FY13-14 Stericycle Costs were \$16,130.99. Covered under existing GF budget, no additional disposal expense
2. Purchase of Sharps Containers (150) initial purchase \$375
3. Website & Media Distribution, No Cost



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Program Phase II:

- Modify agreements with at least five (5) current MedReturn partners
- Target areas CHSS does not have existing locations
- Establish protocols with those partners, increasing disposal sites within the County to ten (10)
- Add new Stericycle contracts to be held by CHSS for five or more disposal sites
- Partners not responsible for selling or holding individual containers
- Stericycle pick up from their sites on a regular schedule at partners' convenience
- Each partner provided with free program flyers, media materials



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Conclusion:

- Increasing use of sharps at home
- Safe, proper disposal methods avoid accidental exposure to used sharps
- Needle-stick injuries are a preventable health risk
- CHSS hoping to launch program as soon as possible
- As with MedReturn program, another low cost, effective way to improve public health and safety for all County residents
- Little added cost to taxpayers
- Important national public health priority
- County to be a part of the health community moving towards a lasting solution
- Long term goal: own and operate incinerator



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Resources:

- <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm278851.htm>
- <http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps/default.htm#whataresharps>
- <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/medical/disposal.htm>
- <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/medical/med-govt.pdf>
- <http://www.epa.gov/osw/nonhaz/industrial/medical/med-home.pdf>
- <http://www.ci.pomona.ca.us/index.php/public-works-home/solid-waste/sharps-disposal?highlight=WyJzaGFycHMlXQ>
- <http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/waste/solid/index.html>



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Questions?

Thank you!



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