DATE: November 26, 2019

TO: NORTHERN INYO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION OF THE NORTHERN INYO HEALTHCARE DISTRICT (NIHD) SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAM

On behalf of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Office of AIDS (OA) this is to inform you that the Northern Inyo Healthcare District (NIHD) application to provide syringe services under the name of “NIHD Harm Reduction Project” has been approved. CDPH, OA has determined that NIHD’s program has met the requirements outlined in California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 121349 to qualify for authorization. Additionally, CDPH, OA has determined that conditions exist for the rapid spread of HIV, viral hepatitis, or other blood-borne diseases in Inyo County. Authorization is effective November 26, 2019 through November 26, 2021. NIHD may apply for renewal before the end of the two-year period.

NIHD Harm Reduction Project is approved to provide syringe services at the NIHD Rural Health Clinic office at 153-B Pioneer Lane, Bishop, California, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In addition, for people unable to attend the NIHD Harm Reduction Project’s Rural Health Clinic site, the program will offer home delivery of services in Inyo County within an approximately 60 mile radius from the NIHD Rural Health Clinic, by appointment. Operating days, hours and locations are subject to change after consultation with and approval from CDPH, OA, as the need for services changes.

California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Subchapter 15, Syringe Exchange Program Certification, requires that certified syringe services programs (SSPs) record both adverse incidents and positive interactions between local law enforcement and SSP staff, volunteers or participants; document concerns and positive feedback expressed by program participants, community members, neighborhood associations and/or local law enforcement officials; and document steps the program has taken to address any reasonable concerns. CDPH, OA will contact you to discuss these and other data and reporting requirements, and work with you to support your efforts to address any concerns that arise.
We appreciate the dedication of all who worked to submit this application. Thank you for your efforts in HIV and hepatitis C prevention, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Marisa Ramos, PhD
Interim Chief
Office of AIDS

cc:

Gilberto F. Chavez, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases
California Department of Public Health, MS 0509
P.O. Box 997377
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Alessandra Ross, MPH
Injection Drug Use Specialist
Office of AIDS
California Department of Public Health, MS 7700
P.O. Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426

Marjorie Katz
Harm Reduction Specialist
HIV Prevention Branch
Office of AIDS
California Department of Public Health, MS 7700
P.O. Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426