January 12, 2018

TO: Orange County Needle Exchange Program
   Attn: Carol J. Newark, Board of Directors
   1605 N. Spurgeon Street
   Santa Ana, CA 92701

SUBJECT: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Office of AIDS has reviewed the Orange County Needle Exchange Program’s (OCNEP) request to renew the authorization to provide syringe exchange program (SEP) services in Santa Ana, California, as well as your 2017 annual report.

CDPH has determined that OCNEP has met the requirements outlined in California Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 121349 to qualify for reauthorization, and therefore CDPH hereby approves OCNEP’s renewal request. This Renewal Authorization is subject to OCNEP’s continued ability to legally operate and furnish such services on premises not precluded by local ordinance. This Renewal Authorization is also subject to OCNEP’s compliance with all applicable laws and local ordinances, as required by Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations section 7014.

This Renewal Authorization is effective January 12, 2018, through December 31, 2018, unless CDPH authority under California Health and Safety (H&S) Code Section 121349 to certify and renew SEPs is extended beyond that date, in which case authorization may be extended up to January 12, 2020, and subject to renewal before the end of the certification period.

This Renewal Authorization is based on our determination that there continues to be a significant risk for transmission of HIV and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in the City of Santa Ana or Orange County, and OCNEP’s work demonstrates that the services OCNEP provides play a crucial public health role in the prevention of blood-borne diseases, as well as offering support and linkage to critical medical care and social services.
Thank you for your continued work in HIV, hepatitis C, and overdose prevention. We look forward to reviewing OCNEP’s upcoming annual report for your operations in 2017, which is due by February 11, 2018.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

cc: Karen Mark, MD, PhD, Chief
Office of AIDS
California Department of Public Health, MS 7700
P.O. Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426

Gilberto F. Chavez, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist
Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases
California Department of Public Health, MS 0509
1616 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95899-7377

Steve Gibson, MSW, Chief
HIV Prevention Branch
Office of AIDS
California Department of Public Health, MS 7700
P.O. Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426

Carol Crump, MFT
Behavioral Health Specialist
HIV Prevention Branch
Office of AIDS
California Department of Public Health, MS 7700
P.O. Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95899-7426