From:	Michael Harney - WNCAP
To:	allstaff@wncap.org; Melinda Ramage; Krisjohn Lang; Mark Collins; hillary; Michel Guicheney; Bayla Ostrach; Joy Smith; Paul Arons; Jennifer L. Mullendore; Jannine E. Shepard; Peggy Weil; Thelma Wright; kimroney@ashevillefm.org; Tim Nolan; Susan Creede; Sue Ellen Morrison; WNCAP; John Gay
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Fwd: Syringe Exchange and Safe Disposal of Sharps by local NGOs and the County Health Department Model
Date:	Wednesday, June 6, 2018 11:51:42 PM

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Dear Colleagues; Below, you'll find the information and links to the meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. I hope you'll take a look at the presentations and comments. You are encouraged to share all of this with others, and especially with those who may be helpful in continuing to expand efforts to make available safe, stigma-free, non-discriminating and humane connections with people who use needles - for no matter what purpose, - by implementing basic harm reduction principles.

We have some work to do in order to seek the county funding The Steady Collective needs to increase its ability to serve the community as it does. We need to understand that much research on how and where to operate syringe/needle exchange is available to read; and indisputably, we must look at a modern model of syringe/needle access for our own regional and statewide communities where the public health department does, at a minimum, its share of a comprehensive harm reduction strategy that assures easy, safe, protective access to the equipment used for injection purposes, and to proper disposal of sharps, and to the array of additional components of healthcare that public health departments are already funded to do with our tax dollars.

I look forward to the next steps in consulting with the Buncombe County DHHS staff and administration to take our collective harm reduction efforts, experience, knowledge, and local flavor to a level that will be the envy of other public health departments in North Carolina. Let's give Buncombe County DHHS a chance to prove its ability to serve our participants too, as an alternative to our own limited abilities and resources. I am certainly committed to spending whatever amount of time it may take to introduce new staff to these concepts that may be unusual or unfamiliar in the beginning. Not one of us came to this work as a "know-it-all" with every answer to every need or situation. It has taken all of us time to grow and learn and be harm reductionists.

Jan and Jennifer, et al., please let us know what we can do to help you create the best model for the 40 Coxe Avenue location of the Buncombe County Department of Health and Human Services.

Peace,
Michael Harney
WNCAP/NEPA
wncap@wncap.org
828-252-7489 ext. 311

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Michael Harney - WNCAP** <wncap@wncap.org>
Date: Wed, Jun 6, 2018 at 11:04 PM
Subject: Syringe Exchange and Safe Disposal of Sharps by local NGOs and the County Health Department Model
To: WNCAP <wncap@wncap.org>

https://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Commissioners/Default.aspx
(This is the link to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners website. It is here where agendas and archives are found.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGM3SdsBVGc
(This should be video 2 of 3 from tonight's meeting of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.)

At the beginning of the second half of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners's meeting on Tuesday, June 5th, Dr. Jennifer Mullendore makes a presentation under the ***"County Manager's Report"*** entitled: ***Syringe Exchange and Safe Disposal of Sharps***. It lasts for about 30 minutes and 11 seconds.
*link to the slide presentation:
https://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=e666be23fc&view=att&th=163d6f0dfff65658&attid=0.1&disp=inline&safe=1&zw

At 1:05:36 of the video, during the ***"Public Comment"*** segment, Hillary Brown presents her comments, followed by Michael Harney at 1:07:58; followed by Bayla Ostrach at 1:11:07; and finally, at 1:16:49 Kim Roney makes some comments on this subject too.

Thanks again everyone who participated!

Peace,
Michael Harney

Other business

- Commissioners will vote on a resolution appointing **Heather Hockaday**, a Burnsville lawyer, to the role of county attorney. Hockaday would replace former county attorney **Bob Deutsch**, who resigned from the position on Oct. 31, 2017.
- As part of its campaign to curb opioid abuse in Buncombe County, the Board of Commissioners will hear a presentation from the county's Health and Human Services Department about strategies for safe needle disposal, intervention methods and strategies to reduce new cases of Hepatitis C and HIV, which have increased as a result of opioid addiction. A presentation released in advance of the meeting indicates that the county is considering the possibility of creating a syringe exchange program.

The Buncombe County Board of Commissioners will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, at 200 College St. in Asheville in room 326. The full meeting agenda and supporting documents can be found here.

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