

Needles: 'Community support has been overwhelming'

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So far, 30 Naloxone kits have been provided. The kits also include gloves, a face shield, alcohol pads and a wallet card that explains good Samaritan laws.

"It's a great add-on to our program," McNickle said. "Even if you're not there to exchange needles, you can get training at no cost."

Information about rehabilitation opportunities is also available at the exchange events. Since October, they have received unconfirmed reports of three people who say they have entered a rehabilitation program.

"That's always our goal — to connect people to the resources and help them get out of the situation that they're in," Strickland said. "We treat them with human kindness. There's such a huge stigma with those who struggle with abuse."

Outreach in Seaside

The county will also conduct exchanges outside Providence Seaside Hospital beginning Feb. 1. The hospital agreed to facilitate the events through the end of the pilot program in April.

"It's proven to reduce the number of patients among



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian
Kerry Strickland, Sheri Salber and Sarah Mitchell wait for people to show up at a needle exchange in Astoria.

those who use the drugs," said Providence spokesman Mike Antrim. "It's definitely a vulnerable population, and it's a good partnership with Clatsop County Public Health."

The county at one point held exchange sites across the street from Quatat Park in downtown Seaside, but city officials were concerned about the optics, McNickle said. The park is

located near tourist attractions and hotels.

"The city of Seaside had some issues with that spot, so in order to honor those concerns, we searched for a different location," McNickle said.

The upcoming events are scheduled to take place Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in a parking lot near the emergency room. The location is

designed to allow people to participate in the exchange from their cars, which has become a common practice at the Astoria site.

"This is a huge step forward and we are very excited about this partnership," McNickle said.

County commissioners unanimously approved the pilot program — funded



Medical supplies sit ready for distribution at a needle exchange program in Astoria.

through a \$50,000 donation from the Friends of Columbia Community Health — in August.

The outreach was met with skepticism from law enforcement officials, who questioned its effectiveness and expressed concerns that it may lead to other drug policies that enable abuse.

But those officials — namely Sheriff Tom Bergin and District Attorney Josh Marquis — agreed not to attempt to block the program.

Positive feedback

Those hosting the events have received mostly positive

feedback, save "a few head shakes," Strickland said.

"The community support has been overwhelming," Strickland said. "I have a lot of gratitude for these people."

McNickle plans to present results to commissioners once the program expires in hopes the county will make the exchanges permanent. The program has shown the scope of drug abuse in the county.

"It doesn't necessarily speak to what we're doing. It speaks to the need," Strickland said. "It's bittersweet to see how successful it has been."

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN

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110 Announcements

Early Trade Partner Request for Proposal

Project:
Seaside Convention & Civic Center (SCCC)
415 First Street
Seaside, Or. 97138
Proposals can be sent via Certified US Mail to O'Brien & Company or emailed to jason@obrien-co.com. Questions can be sent until January 19th, 2018. Call (503)572-3375 for questions. Proposals shall be sent by January 24th, 2018. An optional Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on January 17, 2018.

GC:
O'Brien & Company LLC
PO Box 948
148 West 2nd St., Suite #6
Cannon Beach, Or. 97110
(971) 219-5422

Trades participating in RFP:
Shoring/Soil Amendments, Electrical/Low Voltage, Mechanical, Plumbing, Fire Sprinkler, Audio Visual. All other trades to be bid in the spring. This is a prevailing wage project based on the BOLI July 1st 2017 Wagebook.

Brief Description of Project and Requirements:

O'Brien & Company has been selected as the General Contractor for the Seaside Convention & Civic Center Project in Seaside, Oregon. This is a unique opportunity to be part of an exciting project on the coast where key trade partners are brought on early to ensure project objectives are fulfilled. By being selected as a trade partner, the expectation is that you will be helping with the constructibility, pricing, and schedule. The intent of this proposal is to find the right people to join the team and take part in this unique opportunity. The proposal will seek to find firms with a commitment to collaboration, depth of expertise in the specific trade, transparency, and dedication to quality and schedule. Bidding documents may be examined at the GC's Seaside office and at the following Plan Centers by January 12th, 2018.
84790 Frontage Rd., Suite F
www.contractorplancenter.com

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