

HARM REDUCTION INCLUDING SYRINGE EXCHANGE

in Alamosa, Colorado

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Timeline

- Began formal process **3/2016**
- 3 community meetings, broad representation (Public Health & Human Services, Pharmacy & Medical providers, Treatment/Behavioral Health, AHEC, Elected officials or their local rep's)
- Approved by Alamosa County Board of Health **6/2017**
- Program started **2/2018** (1 morning per week)

Community response

- **Planning meetings** 6/2016 – 6/2017
 - Fiscal agency
 - Exchange location
 - Inclusive harm reduction services
 - Public education
- **Specific outreach**
 - Elected officials
 - Law enforcement
 - Radio interviews
 - People in recovery: input on service delivery
 - Volunteer recruitment & training

Challenges

- Location, location, location
- Limited resources
- Funding
- Marketing of program to potential clients
- Provider support of the program

Successes to date

- **Great support** from state-level partners
- **Interest** in neighboring county to expand & other rural communities outside of SLV considering their own site(s)
- **Increased understanding** and collaboration law enforcement, other community initiatives
- **280** registered clients as of 7/21/2019
- **Client access to treatment & community supports**
 - mobile clinic-wound care, enrollment in treatment, consults
 - behavioral health clinician onsite
 - monthly HCV & HIV testing (CHCO)
 - Positive experience for participants (access, support & respect)
- **Clinical and educational opportunities** for health sciences students
- **Opportunity for community members** to understand harm reduction concept and practice
- **Support** from care providers and ER (place to send patients for safer use practices)
- **Fentanyl test strips** available (65% test positive)
- **Naloxone:** recent survey indicates that out of 61 who received, 59 survived (2 unk)