

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: October 7, 2025 [X] Consent [] Regular
[] Ordinance [] Public Hearing
Department
Submitted By: Community Services
Submitted For: Ryan White Program

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to receive and file: the Palm Beach County (County) Syringe Services Program (SSP) Annual Report 2025. The report reflects services provided during the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Summary: The County has one (1) approved SSP operator, Rebel Recovery Florida, Inc. (Rebel Recovery), a 501(c)(3) non-profit HIV Services and Recovery Community Organization (RCO) located in West Palm Beach, Florida. Rebel Recovery provides SSP services through the Florida Access to Syringe and Health Services (FLASH) Exchange program. This program has been operating since April 1, 2021, as the first community-based syringe services program in Florida. Participants receive services exclusively through a mobile unit with rotating service locations in West Palm Beach, Lake Worth Beach, Riviera Beach, and South Bay.

During the reported period, the FLASH Exchange program served 304 unduplicated clients. The program collected 88,706 used syringes and distributed 84,150 clean and unused syringes, resulting in a net decrease of 4,556 syringes in our community.

During the same period, Rebel Recovery expanded its HIV and Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) testing through the FLASH Exchange program. A total of 102 unduplicated participants received at least one HIV test, and 113 participants were tested for HCV. The FLASH Exchange focused on harm reduction services, peer support, and drug counseling or treatment. As a result, 209 individuals were linked to drug counseling or treatment services. The program also distributed 680 cases of Naloxone and documented 247 overdose reversals. No County funds are required to operate the needle exchange program, as the Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA) expressly prohibits them. Countywide (JBR)

Background and Justification: In June of 2019, the Florida Legislature approved the Infectious Disease Elimination Act (IDEA), as codified in Section 381.0038(4), Florida Statutes, authorizing the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to establish a sterile needle and syringe exchange program within its geographic boundaries. In July of 2019, the BCC adopted the Infectious Disease Elimination Ordinance pursuant to Section 381.0038(4), Florida Statutes. In March 2020, the BCC entered into a letter of agreement with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), agreeing that the SSP will operate in accordance with IDEA requirements, including annual reporting of specific data related to the program. Submission of the Syringe Services Program Annual Report 2025 to FDOH satisfies the BCC's reporting requirements for the County SSP.

- Attachments:
- 1. Palm Beach County Syringe Services Program 2025 Annual Report Cover Letter
 - 2. Palm Beach County Syringe Services Program 2025 Annual Report

Recommended By: James Green 9/5/2025
Department Director Date
Approved By: Terry P. ... 9/16/25
Deputy County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs					
External Revenue					
Program Income					
In-Kind Match (County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	0				

# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)					
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Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No X
Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes _____ No X
Does this item include the use of state funds? Yes _____ No X

Budget Account No.:
Fund _____ Dept. _____ Unit _____ Object _____ Program Code _____ Program Period _____

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:
No County funding is required.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

DocuSigned by:
Julie Dowe
05AC9C7CC5BC444

Julie Dowe, Director, Financial & Support Services

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

ASDCAL 9/10/2025
OFMB
QA 9/10
EJW
9-10-25

Brandon Madg 9/11/25
Contract Development and Control
29 9.11.25

B. Legal Sufficiency:

Brasathel 9/15/25
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.



August 1, 2025

Florida Department of Health,

Community Services Department

810 Datura Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-4700
Fax: (561) 242-7336
www.pbc.gov/communityservices



**Palm Beach County
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Commissioners**

Maria G. Marino, Mayor
Sara Baxter, Vice Mayor
Gregg K. Weiss
Joel G. Flores
Marc Woodward
Maria Sachs
Bobby Powell, Jr.

Please find attached report updating you on the progress of the Palm Beach County Syringe Services Program (SSP). Palm Beach County has one Approved SSP Operator in Rebel Recovery FL, Inc., a 501(c)(3) HIV Services and Recovery Community Organization located in West Palm Beach, Florida. This report reflects services provided during the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30th, 2025.

Rebel Recovery FL Inc. has provided SSP services through the Florida Access to Syringe and Health Services (FLASH) Exchange program. FLASH has operated since April 1, 2021 as the first and only community-based syringe services program in Florida. Participants receive services exclusively through a mobile unit with rotating service locations in West Palm Beach, Lake Worth Beach, Riviera Beach, and South Bay.

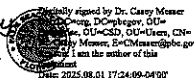
During this reported period, the FLASH Exchange provided direct services to 304 unduplicated clients. FLASH Exchange collected 88,706 used syringes and distributed 84,150 clean/unused syringes, resulting in a net decrease of 4,556 syringes in our community. In addition, 680 cases of naloxone were distributed resulting in 247 reported overdose reversals.

During the reporting period, Rebel Recovery expanded FLASH Exchange HIV and HCV testing capacity, with 102 (33.6%) unduplicated participants receiving at least one HIV test. FLASH Exchange also expanded access to other programs, using the mobile unit to enroll new clients into harm reduction, peer recovery support to increase linkage to drug counseling or treatment, and housing services.

Please Let us know if you require any further information regarding the SSP in Palm Beach County.

Sincerely,

Dr. Casey
Messer



Dr. Casey Messer
Program Manager
Palm Beach County

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"

Official Electronic Letterhead



Syringe Services Program Annual Report 2025

August 1, 2025

**Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners**

Maria G. Marino, Mayor
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Gregg K. Weiss
Joel G. Flores
Marci Woodward
Maria Sachs
Bobby Powell, Jr.

County Administrator
Todd J. Bonlarron (Interim)



Palm Beach County Community Services Department (CSD) Syringe Services Program (SSP) compiled data from all active Needle/Syringe Exchange Operators in Palm Beach County to prepare this data report.

Florida - Aggregate SEP Data (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025)	
Number of client interactions	1,315
Number of unduplicated participants served	304
Number of used syringes/needles received	88,706
Number of clean/unused syringes/needles distributed	84,150
Number of linkages to drug counseling or treatment	209
Number of participants entering drug counseling or treatment	_*
Number of participants tested for HIV	102
Number of participants linked to HIV treatment	3
Number of participants tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)	113
Number of participants linked to HCV treatment	15
Number of naloxone kits distributed	680
Number of participants reported overdose reversals	247
Participant Demographics (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025)	
Black/African American	46
White	80
Asian	0
Native American/Alaska Native	1
Pacific Islander	0
Multiracial	9
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	136
Hispanic	22
Non-Hispanic	113
Unknown	0
Refused	1
Total	136
Age Ranges	
18–24 years	2
25–29 years	10
30–39 years	57
40–49 years	34
50–59 years	22
60+ years	11
Unknown	0
Refused	0
Total	136

*Due to the anonymous nature of syringe services programs, we are unable to verify enrollment into drug counseling or treatment after referral.

Report prepared by Jasmine Parrish, MPH, BSN, RN, Quality Management Clinician, Palm Beach County