



## Agenda Item Summary

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**File #: 23-00519**

**Agenda Date: 10/24/2023**

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**Agenda Item Name:**

**Syringe Exchange Program Presentation and Approval of Oversight Plan**

**Presenter:**

Claudia Tuck, Community Support Services Director, 352-231-0058

**Description:**

Sterile Needle and Syringe Exchange Program to reduce transmission of diseases

**Recommended Action:**

Hear the presentation from Florida Harm Reduction Collective and approve the oversight plan

**Prior Board Motions:**

Resolution, DOH Letter of Agreement, WellFlorida Presentation

**Fiscal Note:**

None

**Strategic Guide:**

Public Safety

**Background:**

Florida Statutes Section 381.0038(4) providing that a county commission may authorize a sterile needle and syringe program under the provisions of a county ordinance for the free exchange of clean, unused needles and hypodermic syringes for used needles. The goal of the program is to prevent the transmission of HIV, AIDS, viral hepatitis, or other blood-borne diseases. State, county, or municipal funds cannot be used to operate an exchange program. Grants and donations from private resources and funds may fund such programs.

In 2018, Alachua County had 157 persons living with HIV and 247 persons with Hepatitis C. The risk of transmission is likely to increase due to the rise of opioids and shared needle use.

The original planning grant with WellFlorida ended. This agency was not able to continue into operations. The Florida Harm Reduction Collective meets the requirement of being a 501(c)3 HIV/AIDS service organization which is one of the 5 criteria required by legislation to provide this service. The only other entities that could provide this service would be a licensed hospital, a licensed health care clinic, an accredited medical school in Florida, or a licensed addictions receiving facility. as The Florida Harm Reduction Collective identified as the alternate agency to continue planning and implementation

Note: Well Florida, Inc. is contributing \$25,000.00 of funding to support the initiative. These funds were received from the private sector and must be fully utilized by December 31, 2023. Additionally, Well Florida, Inc expects to partner with the Collective consistent with its mission on harm reduction and role in HIV prevention and testing.