

**From:** [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: File #220781  
**Date:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 12:47:33 PM

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220781

Alisa Somera  
Legislative Deputy Director  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax  
[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)

(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a “virtual” meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

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-----Original Message-----

From: [mrouppet@icloud.com](mailto:mrouppet@icloud.com) <[mrouppet@icloud.com](mailto:mrouppet@icloud.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2022 11:05 AM  
To: Somera, Alisa (BOS) <[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)>  
Cc: Ande Stone <[astone@sfaf.org](mailto:astone@sfaf.org)>  
Subject: File #220781

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Thursday, September 29, 2022

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Michael Rouppet and I live in District 9 - the Mission, and I'm part of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club and the HIV Advocacy Network. Today I urge you to support the urgent opening of overdose

prevention centers citywide as part of San Francisco's overdose prevention strategy. Having multiple locations will allow more people to access associated services, save more lives, and make a more noticeable impact on public drug consumption.

In 2017 I toured the largest consumption site in Copenhagen, Denmark called H17. Consumption sites work. They're a solution. Inaction and excuses are a problem, particularly in a country that has calcified its resistance to enacting these evidence-based solutions. Every overdose is a policy failure and today I am asking, once again, for your help in being part of the response out of our crisis.

We are in the midst of a dramatic and historic rise in drug overdose deaths. The persistence and severity of the drug overdose crisis requires innovative and user-centered strategies to prevent deaths and reduce additional attendant harms, while expanding access to evidence based-treatment. I'm truly disappointed and baffled to see more efforts being spent on what to call consumption sites rather than creating them over the course of several years, and several lives needlessly lost.

Overdose prevent centers allow people who use drugs to do so in a safe and clear environment, be treated with dignity and respect, and access supportive surveys, which reducing the traumas associated with public drug use. There has never been a single overdose fatality at any overdose prevention site worldwide.

The overdose crisis is a clear threat to the lives and welfare of the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco, causing the deaths of 50 San Franciscans a month on average. Please, support the implementation of overdose prevention centers to address the overdose crisis in our city immediately.

Sincerely,

Michael Rouppe

**From:** [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GAO Committee - Public Comment - File #220781  
**Date:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:33:42 AM

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220781

*Alisa Somera*

Legislative Deputy Director  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax  
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**From:** Calder Lorenz <[calder@thegubbioproject.org](mailto:calder@thegubbioproject.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:20 AM  
**To:** Somera, Alisa (BOS) <[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** GAO Committee - Public Comment - File #220781

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Dear Supervisors,

My name is Calder Lorenz, I live and work in the Mission District, and I am the Director of Operations for The Gubbio Project. I urge you to support the urgent opening of overdose prevention centers citywide as part of San Francisco's overdose prevention strategy. Having multiple locations will allow more people to access associated services, save more lives, and make a more noticeable impact on public drug consumption.

The Gubbio Project's mission is to be in community with and to provide a sacred space and sanctuary for unhoused people in need of safe, compassionate respite during the day. Our program is housed at St. John's in the Mission and currently provides critical services to 100 individuals daily through a highly unique and successful model that combines social justice, peer support, and harm reduction. The Gubbio Project supports overdose prevention programs and calls for a more just, compassionate and urgent approach to this crisis by public agencies and policymakers. An overdose prevention approach is one that cares for and protects our neighbors, without leaving them more vulnerable and deeper in suffering.

We are in the midst of a dramatic and historic rise in drug overdose deaths. The persistence and severity of the drug overdose crisis requires innovative and user-centered strategies to prevent deaths and reduce additional attendant harms, while expanding access to evidence-based treatment.

Overdose prevention centers allow people who use drugs to do so in a safe and clean environment, be treated with dignity and respect, and access supportive services, while reducing the traumas associated with public drug use. There has never been a single overdose fatality at any overdose prevention site worldwide.

The overdose crisis is a clear threat to the lives and welfare of the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco, causing the deaths of 50 San Franciscans a month, on average. Please, support the implementation of overdose prevention centers to address the overdose crisis in our city immediately.

In Community,

Calder Lorenz

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Calder Lorenz (he/him), *Harm Reduction Saves Lives, I carry naloxone!*

Director of Operations at the Gubbio Project

(415)-571-6391 cell phone

[calder@thegubbioproject.org](mailto:calder@thegubbioproject.org)

[thegubbioproject.org](http://thegubbioproject.org)

**From:** [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Cabrera, Stephanie \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: GAO Committee - Public Comment - File #220781  
**Date:** Thursday, September 29, 2022 9:39:03 AM

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220781

*Alisa Somera*

Legislative Deputy Director  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax  
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**From:** Andrea Figueroa <[figueroa@harmreduction.org](mailto:figueroa@harmreduction.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 28, 2022 9:58 PM  
**To:** Somera, Alisa (BOS) <[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** GAO Committee - Public Comment - File #220781

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Dear Supervisors,

My name is Andrea Figueroa and I'm the DOPE Project Manager, a project of the National Harm Reduction Coalition and one of the oldest Naloxone community distribution projects in the country that started in SF. I urge you to support additional funding for Naloxone and harm reduction service programs in San Francisco, including opening of overdose prevention centers citywide, as part of San Francisco's overdose prevention strategy. Having multiple locations that will actually target communities most impacted by overdose and deaths, such as black and brown communities citywide, will allow more people to access associated services, save more lives, and make a more noticeable impact on public drug consumption.

We are in the midst of a dramatic and historic rise in drug overdose deaths. The persistence and severity of the drug overdose crisis requires innovative and user-centered strategies to prevent deaths and reduce additional attendant harms, while expanding access to evidence-based treatment. Overdose prevention centers allow people who use drugs to do so in a safe and clean environment, be treated with dignity and respect, and access supportive services, while reducing the traumas associated with public drug use. There has never been a single overdose fatality at any overdose prevention site worldwide.

In addition, access to naloxone is crucial in the response to overdoses, especially with the increased toxicity and unpredictability of the street supply of drugs. The current drug policy framework of prohibition has been and continues to be the primary driver of this illegal, unregulated, and toxic street supply. Until new regulatory approaches are implemented within the national drug policy framework, and improvements in the quality and reach of the continuum of support, harm reduction and treatment services are made, the risk of significant harms, death and this public health emergency are unlikely to improve.

To minimize the harmful effects of illicit drug use we are calling for a wide spectrum of effective, compassionate, well-researched interventions such as housing for people who use drugs, including subsidies to support permanent housing; accessible, effective detox and addiction treatment, collocated in Syringe Services Programs and community settings and culturally and linguistically appropriate to our BIPOC communities. We must also amplify drug user-led interventions, similar to the DOPE model of community distribution and our SRO project, where SRO residents are the Naloxone trainers and responders on overdoses on site. To do so, it means that some of the proposed interventions must provide additional resources and sustainability to programs such as SSPs and DOPE projects, who have been working directly with people who use drugs to reduce overdose deaths.

Providers are reporting shortages of naloxone or nasal Narcan supplies, which is extremely dangerous. These life saving overdose reversal medications are vital harm reduction supplies that have saved thousands of lives in San Francisco. While there have been multiple policy changes and proposals in recent months that focus on criminalization, frontline providers are facing the devastating task of rationing Narcan due to lack of supplies. We should have systems through coordination with our local and state government so that we never have to deny anyone access to literally life-saving supplies.

DA Jenkins' new policy to charge people who have five citations for misdemeanor drug or

paraphernalia possession is extremely misguided and will only worsen overdose rates. DA Jenkins refuses to meet with community groups representing communities who are impacted by her policies, despite multiple scheduling requests, yet says she has worked with community groups to develop these policies. When pressed on who these community groups were, she neglected to say. Drug court judges can't get people into treatment or dual diagnosis treatment right now. And there's no treatment services available in the jails. Due to lack of treatment options, it is not legitimate for anyone at the City, SFPD, or elsewhere to say that incarceration is a pathway to treatment or recovery right now, not that it's ever really effective or an appropriate pathway to begin with. Substantial evidence suggests that incarceration is associated with increased risk for overdose death. Numerous studies have demonstrated that the days and weeks following release from incarceration are a particularly high-risk period for overdose death.

The overdose crisis is a clear threat to the lives and welfare of the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco, causing the deaths of 50 San Franciscans a month, on average. Please, support the implementation of overdose prevention centers and community-based interventions with an equity focus to address the overdose crisis in our city immediately.

Sincerely,

Andrea Figueroa



**Andrea Figueroa** (she|they/ella/elle)

**DOPE Project Manager**

[628-400-8765](tel:628-400-8765)

Based in: Oakland, California

[figueroa@harmreduction.org](mailto:figueroa@harmreduction.org)

[harmreduction.org](http://harmreduction.org)



*Andrea is based on the territory of xucyun (Huichin), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochochenyo speaking Ohlone people.*

Join us for the [13th National Harm Reduction Conference](#) in San Juan, Puerto Rico from October 13-16, 2022! ✂

*Please note, the National Harm Reduction Coalition participates in a modified summer schedule. Beginning May 27 through Sept 9, 2022 Friday office hours end at 2pm local time.*