



Presented in Committee - September 27, 2019



Stonewall Project

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SF Board of Supervisors, 9-27-19

Who/What we are – Stonewall Project : “Come As You Are”

- The Stonewall Project is a state-certified drug and alcohol treatment program providing harm reduction-based counseling that integrates substance use, mental health and HIV prevention and education.
- Target populations: gay, bi, trans men and other men who have sex with men (G/MSM)
- Harm reduction is a way to “meet people where they’re at,” without requiring participants to meet certain conditions in order to maintain health. It’s safety, your way.
- Harm reduction approaches to substance use are not strictly abstinence-oriented. Rather, they encourage individuals to examine the connections between their substance use or sexual health and their health and well-being, and to take steps toward any positive change.
- Everyone is welcome, no matter what place they’re in, no matter how challenging their life is, no matter how sick they are. It’s a client-centered, person-centered approach.
- Besides enrollment- based drug treatment, we provide low barrier easy access pre-treatment and low threshold services & support (Examples: Cheers Queers/ PROP/ Walk-in 1 on 1 or Group Support)

Systemic barriers & gaps to quality assistance, treatment or low threshold support

- Medi-Cal coverage has a lot of limitations
 - Covers only two treatment episodes a year; out-of-county limitations; does not cover contingency management or low threshold services; and more
- Most treatment programs cannot provide services to those who are not formally enrolled (*Lack of low barrier services)
- Lack of Housing / Housing Insecurity
- Limited options for treatment (participants often experience abstinence as the only option to help (Programs must implement treatment tracks outside of full abstinence)
- Insufficient resources (funding) to meet the demand (At Stonewall: Current wait for a match to one on one counseling. Immediate match to group support.)
- For Stonewall: Expansion into non G/MSM populations. Launching PROP for All Fall 2020 & low threshold counseling at the 6th Street Harm Reduction Center June 2020. Need additional resources to expand current services to non- G/MSM populations.

What do we see as successful / What works

- Harm Reduction Treatment Approach (Multiple Treatment Tracks: Targeted Abstinence, Substance Use Management, Full Abstinence)
- Specialized services for Queer, Trans, gender non-conforming, PWID
- Contingency management (I.e. a behavioral intervention(s) in which individuals receive tangible incentives for health behavior changes.) Examples: PROP Program / PROP for All
- Low threshold 1 on 1 and group support & services
- Drop-in services, centers, etc.

Recent Participant Evaluation surveys in 2019 reveal:

- ★ 63% of PROP participants completing 12-week cycle had stopped their stimulant use and an additional 19% reduced their use, as documented by toxicology screens
- ★ 42% of Stonewall Project enrolled participants surveyed (Spring 2019) reported having stopped using one or more drugs

SFAF recommendations for low-threshold services

- Partner with jails and diversion programs (Let's not criminalize drug users)
- Partner with DPH-funded services for low-threshold services
- Support Safer Injection Facilities (aka Overdose Prevention Centers)
- Medi-Cal covers low threshold services; eliminate out-of-county Medi-Cal restrictions; investigate VA waiver to provide contingency management
- Support low-threshold services with unrestricted dollars
- Implement the upcoming recommendations of the SF Meth Task Force and prior Substance Use work group of the HIV Planning Council
- Increased resources to expand successful programs and aftercare services