

RESOLUTION 17-06

REGARDING THE CREATION OF A SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SEP) IN
MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

WHEREAS Kentucky is suffering from an epidemic of heroin and other injection drug use as evidenced by the increases in all of the following: drug overdoses and untimely deaths, emergency room visits and hospitalizations due to heroin and other drug use, babies born to women with drug addiction, rates of communicable diseases, and law enforcement arrests and incarceration due to heroin and other drug possession and associated criminal activity and Madison County, Kentucky, is experiencing increased rates of the same;

WHEREAS needles, syringes, and other equipment for injection drug use can become contaminated with blood that contains hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV and these viruses can be transmitted when such equipment is shared among injection drug users;

WHEREAS contaminated drug injection equipment puts the public and first responders at risk for exposure through accidental needle sticks when such contaminated equipment is improperly discarded;

WHEREAS the cost of the medications for one course of treatment for Hepatitis C is approximately \$89,000;

WHEREAS the cost of treating HIV infection, a lifelong chronic disease, is nearly \$400,000;

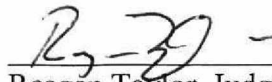
WHEREAS the Indiana State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) experienced a large outbreak of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections in 2015 among 181 persons who injected drugs in Scott County, Indiana with a population of 23,712 and the CDC has issued a health advisory recommending that health departments ensure persons actively injecting drugs have access to integrated prevention services, including but not limited to access to sterile injection equipment from a reliable source;

WHEREAS the Madison County Health Department is statutorily mandated per KRS 211.180 to perform the duties of detection, prevention, and control of communicable diseases such as Hepatitis C and B and HIV and implementation of a Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) helps fulfill this mandate;

WHEREAS SEPs have been operated in the United States since the 1980s, over 200 programs operating in 32 states, DC, Puerto Rico, and Indian nations, and at least 18 SEPs operating in the state of Kentucky;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Madison County Fiscal Court directs the Madison County Health Department to implement a SEP in Madison County, Kentucky to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases associated with injection drug use and in so doing advance the public safety of Madison County, Kentucky.

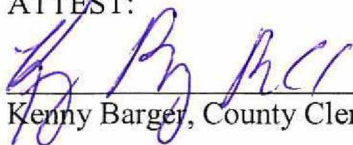
SIGNED:



Reagan Taylor, Judge Executive

3-15-12

Date

ATTEST:


Kenny Barger, County Clerk