

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION NO:** 2008-42

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUPPORT OF ASSEMBLY BILL 547 (AB 547), A  
SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROJECT TO COMBAT THE SPREAD OF HIV AND  
BLOOD-BORNE HEPATITIS INFECTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, as of 2001, an estimated 600,000 Californians were infected with Hepatitis C attributable to the sharing of contaminated syringes and over one thousand Californians are infected with HIV through syringe sharing each year. Numerous studies concur that improved syringe access reduces the rate of HIV transmission, without increasing the rates of drug use, drug injection, or crime.

**WHEREAS**, the rapidly spreading acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic, and the more recent spread of blood-borne hepatitis, pose an unprecedented public health crisis in California, and threaten, in one way or another, the life and health of every Californian; and

**WHEREAS**, injection drug users are the second largest group at risk of becoming infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and developing AIDS, and they are the primary source of heterosexual, female, and perinatal transmission in California, the United States, and Europe; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the State Office of AIDS, injection drug use has emerged as one of the most prevalent risk factors for new AIDS cases in California; and

**WHEREAS**, studies indicate that the lack of sterile needles available on the streets, and the existence of laws restricting needle availability promote needle sharing, and consequently the spread of HIV among injection drug users. The sharing of contaminated needles is the primary means of HIV transmission within the injection drug user population; and

**WHEREAS**, Assembly Bill 547 (2005) authorized local cities and counties to have a clean needle and syringe exchange project.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake authorizes a clean needle and syringe exchange program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Lake as follows: That the Lake County Health Officer shall present an annual report at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors detailing the status of syringe exchange programs including, but not limited to, relevant statistics on blood-borne infections associated with needle sharing activity and public funding of such programs. Members of the public, local public health officials and law

enforcement shall be given the opportunity to comment on the syringe exchange program at that time to ensure that any potential adverse impacts on the public welfare are addressed and mitigated. A copy of this resolution shall be delivered to the Auditor-Controller, Tax Collector and Health Services Department.

This resolution was passed and adopted the 26th day of February, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Smith, Rushing, Brown and Robey

NOES: None

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING: Supervisor Farrington (absent)

ATTEST: Kelly F. Cox  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

COUNTY OF LAKE

Ed Robey  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

BY: Burgin Hunt

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ANITA L. GRANT, COUNTY COUNSEL

BY: Anita L. Grant

