

Project 439: Integrating Harm Reduction and Medicine in a Rural Setting

Louisa Chen and Nasim Azizgolshani



Dartmouth
GEISEL SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Who is Project 439?



A group of medical students with the goal of providing free, compassionate care to those who need help taking their lives back from addiction.

Project 439 Aims

To decrease the number of overdose deaths

To prevent the transmission of HIV/HCV

To protect the larger community

To provide a safe space!

Services Offered

- Naloxone training and supplies
- Safe usage supplies: syringes, alcohol wipes, sterile water, tourniquets, cotton balls etc.
- Safe sharps disposal location
- Sharps container
- HIV/HCV Testing
- Treatment and Rehabilitation Referral Services
- Safe usage education

Methods

- Drawing on existing resources already established in NH
 - naloxone supply from Sullivan County Public Health Network
 - HIV/HCV Testing
- Financial Support
 - Fellowships
 - Financial support for students at Geisel School of Medicine
 - Community based charity organizations
- Collaboration and support from activists, politicians, and institutions in New Hampshire

It Takes A Village

Claremont City Officials: Police Chief Mark Chase, Fire Chief Rick Bergeron, Mayor Charlene Lovett, City Manager Ryan McNutt, City Planner Mike McCrory, Town Council

Partnerships with local organizations: Valley Regional Hospital (Peter Wright), Dartmouth Hitchcock (Community Health Department, Greg Norman, Barbara Farnsworth, Sally Kraft) Claremont Soup Kitchen (Cindy Stevens), Hope For Recovery (Wayne Miller)

School support: Dr. Peter Mason, Shawn O'Leary, Dr. Tim Lahey, Nancy Gabriel, Dr. Duncan, Dr. Pinto-Powell, Dr. Richard Zuckerman, Dr. Joseph O'Donnell

Insight from other local org: H2RC Laura Byrne

County/State contacts: Seddon Savage, Greater Sullivan County Public Health Network (Kirsten Vigneault, Elizabeth Hennig, Ashley Greenfield), Wendy Le Blanc (NH HIV/AIDS Task Force)

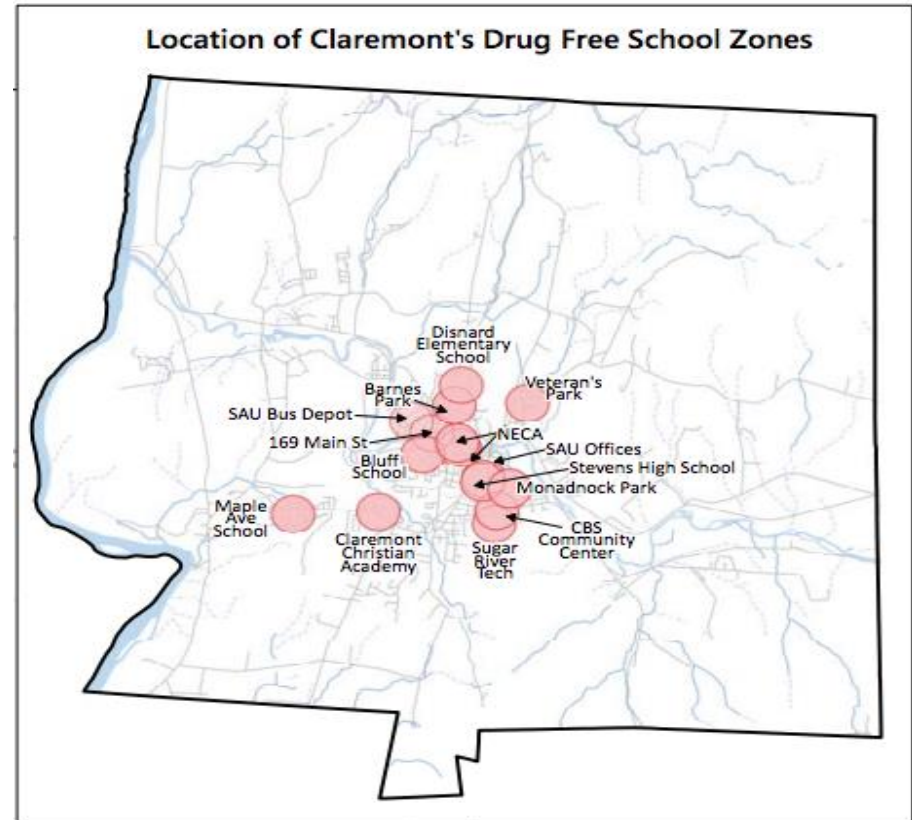
Impact of Project 439 in Sullivan County

Time Period	June 30-October 16
Visits	10
Narcan Distributed	37
Needles collected	329
Sharps Containers Distributed	34
Clean Needles Distributed	1760

Senate Bill 234

SB 234

318-B:45 Syringe Service Programs in Drug - Free School Zones Prohibited. No syringe service program shall be located within a drug-free school zone as defined in RSA 193-B:1, II.



Public Opinion

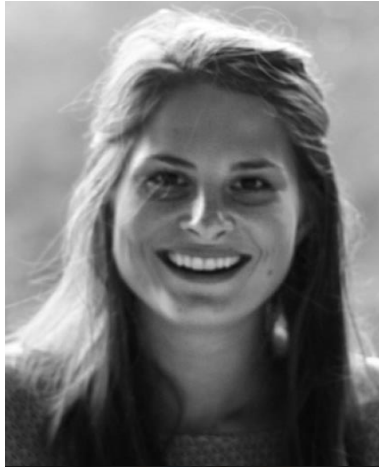
TABLE 1—The Development of Methadone Maintenance (1960s and 1970s) and Syringe Exchange (1980s and 1990s) in the United States

Components	Methadone Maintenance	Syringe Exchange
Context	Heroin epidemic ³⁶	HIV/AIDS epidemic among injection drug users ^{5,6}
Staff	Legally harassed, highly committed, strong sense of accomplishment ^{17,18}	Often legally harassed, highly committed (many are volunteers), strong sense of accomplishment ¹⁰
Attitudes toward research	Developed by researchers, implemented with evaluation studies	Generally supportive, usually implemented with evaluation studies
Research findings	Strongly supportive ³⁷	Strongly supportive ^{7,10-14}
Participant response	Accomplishment and gratitude ^{17,18}	Accomplishment and gratitude ¹⁰
Controversy	Challenged abstinence from narcotic drugs as only legitimate goal ¹⁸	Challenged abstinence from illicit drugs as only legitimate goal ⁷⁻¹³

Treloar, Carla, et al. "Public opinion on needle and syringe programmes: avoiding assumptions for policy and practice." *Drug and Alcohol Review* 26.4 (2007): 355-361.

Future of Project 439

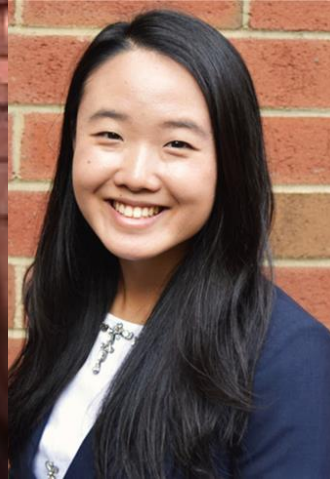
Kira Gressman



Tala Radejko



KC Collier



Lily Seo



Elsa Lindgren



Christina Tsai



Christina



Fleischer



Andrew Blake