



WNCAP

Western North Carolina AIDS Project

ALL SERVICES
ARE CONFIDENTIAL
1-828-252-7489
or **1-800-346-3731**
www.wncap.org

Syringe Exchange Now Legal In NC

Syringe exchange programs (SEP) are one of the most effective public health interventions for decreasing the transmission rates of HIV and other blood borne diseases such as hepatitis C. SEPs connect people to treatment and other important resources such as housing and food assistance. In states with legalized syringe exchange programs, people who inject drugs turn in their used needles in exchange for unused needles.



By expanding access to syringes and ensuring a safe way to dispose of bio-hazardous materials, syringe exchange programs create safer environments for the community at large. Additionally, syringe exchange programs are shown to lead to a 66% reduction in needle-stick injury to law enforcement.

While it is a common myth that syringe exchange programs encourage, enable or increase drug use, as well as crime, decades of research from organizations including the American Medical Association and the World Health Organization, show that syringe exchange programs do none of those. In fact, many studies demonstrate that syringe exchange programs decrease drug use by connecting otherwise marginalized people to treatment. It is estimated that syringe exchange program participants are five times more likely to enter drug treatment than non-participants*.

For more information on syringe exchange programs as a public health intervention go to <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/risk/ssps.html>

For information on syringe exchange programs in western North Carolina contact Tracey Childers at **828-252-7489 ext. 321**, tchilders@wncap.org

*Excerpted from NCHRC.org

Expanding Prevention Services in Western Counties

WNCAP welcomes our newest staff member, Stephanie Almeida, CSAC, CSAPC. Stephanie has joined our staff as an HIV/HCV Outreach Specialist. Stephanie brings over 15 years of experience in substance use prevention and over 7 years of treatment through her work with individuals and their families who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic.



Stephanie is looking forward to her new role at WNCAP which will include developing a regional syringe exchange program. The syringe exchange program will serve the 7 far western counties of Clay, Cherokee, Jackson, Graham, Haywood, Macon, and Swain as well as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The plan is to implement the new program in two phases. Phase one includes a fixed location in Macon County. Phase two includes a mobile program that will serve the surrounding counties with syringe exchange, HIV and Hepatitis C testing as well as distribute opioid overdose reversal kits to individuals at risk.

WNCAP is excited to expand services to the far western counties and is looking forward to what new and innovative programming Stephanie will bring to the region.

WNCAP Advocates Attend Annual Statewide HIV Conference

On an unseasonably hot Saturday in early September, just over a hundred HIV activists, case managers, and advocates gathered at Winston-Salem State University. North Carolina AIDS Action Network (NCAAN) and the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition (NCHRC)'s day-long "Stronger Together: HIV and AIDS Advocacy" Conference attracted a multitude of HIV+ movers, shakers, and allies all under one roof, from twenty-somethings freshly graduated from college to sixty-somethings who had witnessed first-hand the advent of the virus. WNCAP's own Advocacy Supervisor, Amanda Stem, co-facilitated a workshop, "#HireaMillennial" highlighting the benefits of investing in the younger generation within the nonprofit workforce. We were happy to co-sponsor an event that honored such diversity and the road trip back to western North Carolina buzzed with continued conversations. We look forward to bringing out more advocates next year!



¿Hablas español? WNCAP Seeks Bilingual Full-Time Case Manager

WNCAP is conducting a search for a full-time HIV Case Manager based in western North Carolina. Case management at WNCAP is a service that assists people living with HIV/AIDS access the resources needed to stay engaged in care and thrive in their communities. The goal of the case management program is to sustain independence through providing support, advocacy, and connection to services to meet basic needs so clients stay in care and healthy. Case managers and clients work together to assess an appropriate level of case management. Case management services can range from a lower level, client-managed approach to a more intensive approach: Medical Case Management.

The HIV Case Manager is responsible for providing or referring clients to supportive services, as needed, and submitting appropriate case management documentation. Education and job qualifications include: bachelors degree, preferably in social work or a related field; two years work experience, preferably in a social service agency; strong interpersonal and communication skills; sensitivity to HIV/AIDS issues, and an ability to interact successfully with all persons affected by the disease. Must be fluent in Spanish and English.

For a complete job description, go to www.wncap.org/employment-opportunities. Qualified applicants should send a resume and cover letter via email to:

Brodderick Roary, Operations Manager, broary@wncap.org
Please use Case Manager in the subject line of your email. WNCAP is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

