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Ryan Ibach

From: Melissa Gray <melissagrayknight@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 1:54 PM
To: Ryan Ibach
Subject: Written Communications - December 7

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My family and many others support Health District staff. Misinformation provided by the non-health care professionals needs to stop. It will only hurt people. Research shows these programs are safe, effective, and cost-saving tools that can prevent HIV and high-risk injection behaviors among people who inject drugs. Syringe services programs help protect communities by preventing infectious disease outbreaks and facilitating safe disposal of used syringes.

Yakima Healthcare professionals need to make decisions for our community.

Thank you,

Melissa Gray

2

Ryan Ibach

From: Mary Lou Shean <lulishean1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 4:31 PM
To: Ryan Ibach
Subject: Written Communication - Dec. 7

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I am writing in support of evidence based programs such as the needle exchange program for reduction of transmission of disease. This is not a program whose primary purpose is to reduce drug abuse, but is used to prevent **transmission** of disease such as Hepatitis B and HIV. As a community, we should be doing everything we can that is preventative so that we can protect our somewhat crippled healthcare system. I also fully support encouraging people to wear masks as we go into the cough, cold, flu, RSV and COVID season. We simply can't afford to have very many hospital beds taken up from people fighting infectious diseases that we know how to reduce with vaccination programs, masks, handwashing, covering coughs, etc. If we overwhelm our healthcare systems, nobody in our community gets good care. We should recognize that there is a gradation of protection from different mitigation actions and that wearing a mask or taking a COVID vaccine is not a black and white issue, but is evidenced based to **reduce** the transmission of disease and in the case of vaccines, help to prevent both infections and severe outcomes.

Mary Lou Shean, MS, BSN, RN

3

Ryan Ibach

From: Megan tweedy <tweedymegan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 5, 2022 9:34 AM
To: Ryan Ibach
Subject: Written Communication Dec 7th.

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I encourage all of us to remember that despite harmful consequences to self and others, Substance Use Disorder is a complicated disease for both the user and family members. While we don't condone the behaviors associated with the drug use, they are in fact, often a result of the drug use itself. We all hope that people who use drugs will seek treatment, however that is not always the case. Our role as a community is to be ready if they do. In his decade-long dependence on opioids, my brother, Jeff had periods free from active disease, thanks to MAT. Who's to say, he, like others, couldn't have continued to live while enduring a cycle of relapse and recovery. However, because the illicit drug supply is so dangerous, he used alone on his last day alive and died of a fentanyl overdose. SSPS NOT only provide important harm reduction services like needle exchange and testing, but an opportunity to keep people who use drugs alive by providing Narcan and initiating MAT treatment. This is why I encourage the BOH to continue to pursue collaborative relationships with agencies who provide harm reduction services. We have an opportunity to come together and support our vulnerable and sick populations through a community health hub. Thank you. Megan Tweedy