# Safe Syringe Disposal

## Buncombe County Health and Human Services

March 17, 2019

# Overview of 2019 Syringe Disposal Efforts

- 16 bathroom units installed at various locations
- Syringe handling training given as part of harm reduction training to over 400 community and business members
- Safe syringe disposal information distributed to area businesses, nonprofits, libraries, and City of Asheville
- “Safety is the Point” safe syringe disposal bus ads placed in 22 city buses
- 6 large disposal units purchased for installation

# Safe Syringe Disposal Consulting the Experts:

- Evidence-Based research from Montreal, Canada shows community-based disposal units reduced needle litter by 95% within 200 yards of the unit
- Erie County, NY Department of Health provided technical assistance and guidance on policy and logistics of syringe disposal
- Successful community disposal efforts include street sweep teams and large disposal units

# City / County MOU

Logistics:

- 6 large disposal units will be donated to City of Asheville
- City of Asheville will install and maintain the units
- Buncombe County will replace unit if needed and oversee collection of syringes



53 in. H x 28 in. D x 20 in. W

# City / County MOU

*Locations based on community requests, consultation, and data:*

- DEA APD Liaison input
- Greenworks data collection
- Asheville City Sanitation
- Request by Pisgah View Community
- Consultation with Buncombe County Parks Department
- Stakeholder engagement at Community Engagement Markets and door-to-door with business owners on Haywood Rd. (West Asheville) and in Downtown Asheville

# Dogwood Grant Awarded for Safe Syringe Collection

- $24,364
- Will pay for a part time position to manage collection from 6 units
- Grant covers end-point disposal bins
- Grant also pays for liability insurance for subcontracted agency
- Development of sustainability plan for collection as a part of opioid response efforts
- Subcontracted agency identified as Sunrise Community for Recovery and Wellness

# Community Engagement Plan

- Opioid Response Coordinator working with City of Asheville and Buncombe County Community Engagement Teams
- Continued harm reduction education including safe disposal
- Safe syringe disposal materials for individuals and businesses
- Work with stakeholders including Buncombe CARE Team, nonprofit partners, and businesses
- Website: buncombecounty.org/safer



# Next Steps

- Continued community engagement and education
- Identify specific coordinates for 2 of the locations (Harris Center and Haywood St. Congregation)
- Installation of units
- Train new Sunrise hire on pick-up and community engagement
- Continue Needs Assessment of rural Buncombe County for substance use needs, including disposal

