



Health and Human Services Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 29, 2015
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PERMANENT MEDICATION DISPOSAL KIOSKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

SHASTA COUNTY – A news conference was held today to announce the launch of a new program for Shasta County residents. The Safe Medicine Disposal Program provides the Shasta County community the opportunity to safely dispose of unwanted, unused and/or expired medications at kiosks located throughout Shasta County. This program is a collaboration between Shasta County Public Health, Shasta County Chemical People, A Sobering Choice Coalition, Redding Police Department, Shasta County Sheriff's Office and Anderson Police Department. The purchase of the kiosks was made possible by Redding East Rotary, Anderson Rotary, Anderson Lions Club, Anderson Kiwanis, Burney/Fall River Rotary, Shasta County Chemical People, and A Sobering Choice Coalition.

Studies have shown that medications in home medicine cabinets and drawers have become the supply of choice for many people. More than 50% of abusers are known to obtain the medication they abuse from family and friends for free. In addition, research has shown that the environment is threatened by medications that are flushed down toilets. Most medications are not removed through normal water-treatment processes so they end up in the environment and groundwater.

"The Drug Enforcement Administration, The City of Redding, Public Health and the Sheriff's office have been participating in National Prescription Drug Take Back days for the past several years," said HHS Public Health Director, Terri Fields Hosler. "However, we wanted to provide a safe and secure place where our community members can go at any time to dispose of these medications and not wait months for a special day." There are now four safe and secure locations available. "We encourage community members to come to any of the drop locations and deposit unwanted, unused, and/or expired medications, anonymously, no questions asked."

The locations are: Redding Police Department, 855 Cypress Avenue; Anderson Police Department, 2220 North Street; Shasta Lake City Sheriff's Office, 4488 Red Bluff Street; Shasta County Sheriff's Office – Burney Substation, 20509 Shasta Street.

The kiosks are free to use. Medications must be removed from their container and placed in a zip-type bag for disposal. It is OK to mix multiple medications into the same zip-type bag. All liquids, powders and ointments should be tightly sealed, left in their original container and placed in a zip-type bag. Make sure any identifying information is blacked out or removed. All empty bottles should be recycled at home. Please do not deposit illegal substances, pill bottles, needles or other sharps, thermometers, IV bags and bloody or infectious waste into the kiosks. The disposal kiosks are for individual or family use only and are not intended for use by nursing homes, group homes, medical facilities, pharmacies, doctor's offices or other businesses.

"Healthy people in thriving and safe communities"

www.shastahhsa.net

For more information about medication abuse and the Safe Medicine Disposal Kiosk Program, call 530-245-6858 or visit: www.rxsafeshasta.com.

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