

Board of Health Report – August 5th, 2020

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Lainnie continues to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor’s Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force. She has engaged in no planning as the March and April meetings were canceled due to social distancing measures.
 - *Upcoming Meetings: No July meeting, August 31st 5:30-6:30pm*
- Lainnie continues to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Meetings are being held virtually. Agreed to hold off on creating a new “Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA” report until a topic is identified that would benefit the provider community during the COVID-19 response.
- Lainnie continues to work the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell grant partners to document the progress of the grant for the final report, as the PDMP grant ends September 30th, 2020.

Lowell CO-OP and Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) Grant Efforts:

- Lainnie continues to be involved in administrative planning for the Lowell CO-OP, including co-facilitating Lowell CO-OP Supervisors Meetings and working with team and grant partners to ensure effectiveness of the team. All meeting are being held virtually at this time.
- Lainnie continues to attend monthly SPI grant, the grant that funds several Lowell CO-OP positions and efforts, conference calls with local and federal grant partners.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Lainnie continues to manage daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division. The Division is checking-in twice a week via a virtual platform to share updates and provide mutual support.
- Lainnie continues to be the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org (see MOAPC report). Lainnie has been updating current and writing new content.
- Partnerships For Success (PFS) Grant
 - Lainnie has been working with Shannon, Outreach Health Educator, to compile qualitative and quantitative data for the final PFS grant report as the last day of the grant is September 30th, 2020.
 - Lainnie has been meeting monthly with Shannon, Technical Assistance Liaison Ivy Jones-Turner, and BSAS Grant Coordinator Tonya Fernandez monthly to provide updates about the Lowell PFS grant and plan for the evaluation of the grant.
- Lainnie is part of the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium planning committee. This is the third year that the symposium will be held, and focuses on bringing together providers working SUD and prevention populations together to network and learn about local efforts. The symposium will be held virtually in December 2020.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

*** Lainnie Emond is overseeing the MOAPC Coalition and grant efforts in the interim***

Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster): Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.

- No updates at this time.

Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):

- Several organizations within the MOAPC cluster offer Narcan training and Narcan kits while engaging in appropriate social distancing measures.
- Many towns in the Greater Lowell cluster continue to engage in post-overdose follow-up with precautions due to COVID-19. Some communities are using new methods to engage with clients while following guidelines, including utilizing telehealth and arranging to meet clients outside.

Drug Free Greater Lowell Website

- www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org is being maintained via the MOAPC grant. The COVID-19 resource page related to mental health, substance abuse treatment and recovery, and youth prevention is being updated regularly.
- New content has been added about prescription medication and youth alcohol use prevention.

2020 Drug Free Greater Lowell Website Analytics

	Jan	Feb	Mar*	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total page Views	645	497	559	470	430	494	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unique Page Views	496	362	390	329	295	325	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Analytics for March were unavailable at the time that this BOH report was submitted.*

Other Updates

- The MOAPC grant will be extended through June 30th, 2021. Due to the grant extension, the MOAPC Coalition Coordinator position job description was posted on July 20th and will remain posted until filled.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)
Shannon Gray, Outreach Health Educator

Strategy One (social media education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):

PFS Social Media Campaign:

Rather than running focus groups with youth to gather their feedback on the memes, youth feedback was gathered from an online survey about the memes to adjust for social distancing measures put in place because of COVID-19. Positive feedback was gathered and analyzed from 16 respondents. Shannon has now made a two-week schedule for the meme campaign social media posts and is awaiting approval from the City.

Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):

“Help Keep Our Kids Safe” Campaign:

The prescription medication educational flier for parents/guardians was printed and about 1,900 fliers were distributed to local programs and pharmacies that have access to parents/guardians. As social distancing measures set in place for COVID-19 have impacted direct contact for flier dissemination and education, PFS Coalition members have also shared the educational flier electronically to partners around the community.

Monthly Meeting:

The most recent Partnerships For Success Coalition meeting was held on July 22nd from 1-2pm via Zoom. The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for August 19th and will be held virtually.

Partnership For Success Updates:

Shannon has been able to attend many virtual trainings. These trainings include topics such as neurobiology of addiction for youth and young adults, setting and maintaining professional boundaries, prevention sustainability and synthetic drugs, vaping, and youth substance use. The knowledge gained from these trainings will positively impact the work moving forward towards the end of the PFS grant.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – **Overview**
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

Lowell CO-OP Data

--	June 2019	June 2020	2019 Total	2020 Total*
Total Encounters	58	34	667	192
Unique Encounters	34	20	378	106
Initial Interaction	3	1	100	23
OD Follow-Up	3	1	116	11
Section 35	1	1	20	4
Clinical Clients	2	4	40	22
Disseminate Narcan	4	6	141	26
SUD Treatment	14	1	158	28
Medical Treatment	4	0	33	6
Other Services	8	0	47	20
Misc. Outreach	156	16	1581	59

**On 6/22/2020 remote work restrictions eased allowing for the reevaluation data with the paper records, in addition to the electron health records. This reanalysis is reflected in the table above.*

Outreach and Educational Events

Due to Corona virus (COVID-19) concerns in-person outreach and educational events have been temporarily suspended

Relationship Building

Due to Corona virus (COVID-19) concerns relationship building continues to be focused on phone, email conversations, and video conferencing.

Additional

- The Lowell CO-OP Supervisor and the Clinical Recovery Specialist returned to the Lowell CO-OP office located in the Middlesex Sheriff’s Lowell Community Counseling Center on June 22nd.. The Lowell CO-OP Police Officer has returned to regular Lowell CO-OP duties. The Lowell House Clinical Outreach Specialist and the Trinity EMS EMT have returned to the Lowell CO-OP on a limited basis.
- The Lowell Health Department has provided masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes for the Lowell CO-OP team members to use.
- The Lowell CO-OP Team continue to meet with clients in the office while socially distancing, and wearing masks.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – **Clinical Services**
Joseph Aniello, Clinical Recovery Specialist

Please note that “Clinical Staff” for the Lowell CO-OP are completed by Joseph Aniello, Maricia Verma (Lowell CO-OP Supervisor), and Gianna Sandelli (Outreach Specialist from Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recover).

Lowell CO-OP Clinical Services Data – 2020

--	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Clinical Sessions	--	--	18	16	7	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	51
Clinical Clients	--	--	7	4	3	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	21
Initial Interaction	--	--	1	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Medical Treatment	--	--	4	1	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Transportation	--	--	2	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Housing	--	--	5	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Financial	--	--	5	2	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
DCF	--	--	4	4	4	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	13
Other	--	--	18	0	0	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	23

Definitions of Data Categories	
Clinical Sessions	Total number of clients that have engaged in clinical case management with Lowell CO-OP Clinical Staff. Includes duplicates of clients.
Clinical Clients	Total number of unduplicated clinical clients that were engaged by Clinical Staff.
Initial Interaction	Total number of clients that the Clinical Staff began clinical case management services during the month.
Transportation	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff case management for clinical clients with regard to transportation services.
Housing	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients in regard to housing services.
Financial	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical client in regard to financial services.
DCF	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients in regard to services related to the DCF.
Other	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients for any other service.
Case Management	The process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, and advocacy for clinical clients’ ongoing psychosocial needs for the promotion of long term substance use recovery.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- MassHire
- Lowell City Council
- Lowell Public Works
- Mill City Grows
- Salvation Army
- Life Connection Center
- Healthy Streets
- UMass Lowell
- Trinity E.M.S.
- Middlesex County Superior Court
- Mass DOT
- Office of the City Manager
- Lowell CO-OP
- Department of Planning & Development
- Lowell Street Department
- Lowell Police Department
- Lowell Parks Department

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- Dutton Street Bridge
- Riverfront Park
- Le Lachur Park
- Lowell Locks
- Eastern Canal Park
- Hunts Falls Bridge
- George Street
- Favor Street
- Rogers Street Bridge
- South Common Park
- North Common Park
- Thorndike Overpass
- Eastern Canal Park
- Concord River
- Point Park
- Bridge Street Park
- River Bike Path
- Lincoln Street

Syringe Collection Activity 2020

Total Number of...	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Discarded pick-up requests*	20	24	21	14	13	20	22	--	--	--	--	--	134
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	18	9	11	9	8	16	17	--	--	--	--	--	88
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	375	135	547	124	50	91	156	--	--	--	--	--	1478
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	0
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	1125	774	727	882	583	1190	1111	--	--	--	--	--	6392
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	50	44	40	51	27.5	66	42.5	--	--	--	--	--	321

*Discarded syringe pick-up request from City Employees (ie. police, fire) and Trinity EMS.

**Discarded syringe pick-up request from Lowell residents.