

Board of Health Meeting – November 7th, 2018

Division of Substance Abuse and Prevention
Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator
Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with the Chair of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies.
 - *Recent/Upcoming Meetings: 10/29 and 11/26 from 5:30-6:30pm in the Mayor's Reception Room within City Hall*
- Hosted Data Subcommittee meetings for the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force on 11/5. Continuing to identify data sources within the agencies at the table. Working to overlap datasets from various agencies by zip code and neighborhood, as a means to comply with HIPAA, to identify areas of need in regards to substance abuse services and outreach. The Subcommittee is also bringing together data to make a linear representation of the substance abuse programming/initiatives, fatal and nonfatal overdoses, and other related factors in Lowell in hopes of being able to make correlations that could influence future programming/funding in Lowell.
 - *Recent/Upcoming Meetings: 10/1 and 11/5 1-2pm at EOC within LPD*
- Continuing partnership with LPD and UML re: PDMP grant to begin creating a "Death Database" as a means to retroactive study the lives of fatal opioid overdose victims. We plan to analyze victims' encounters with first responders, medical services, and other professionals to see where opportunities for harm reduction and education may have been missed as an effort to identify new opportunities for client engagement moving forward.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant

- Lainnie has continued to work in partnership with LPD and UML researchers on fine tuning data points that the Lowell CO-OP collects during their day-to-day client encounters. Has also been involved in identifying an evidenced based tool that identifies client progress.

Other:

- Health and Police Departments have planned a Remembrance and Recovery Vigil scheduled for 10/25 to remember those who have lost their lives to substance abuse disorder and to honor to those in recovery.
- Lainnie has been working on an "Overdose Tracking" specific to Lowell. The tracking consists of daily nonfatal opioid overdose number from of Trinity EMS, weather (daily high and low), crime as reported via "CrimeMapping.com", crime as reported by local news sources, program closings, and other events taking place in the city such as house fires, festivals, and fatal accidents. The intention is to collect several months of data to see if there are potential correlations between increases in nonfatal opioid overdoses and local "events".

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Michael Hall M.Ed.

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.*

- MOAPC Coordinator facilitated a Life Skills Training (LST) Prevention Certification training for cluster public school teachers. Four school systems were represented. With the additional consultation I am providing, the newly certified attendees are on track to implement LST by the end of November 2018.
- Additionally, after a summer of working with The Nan Project in training their staff in high school transitions level LST, the Director of The Nan Project has met with Lowell High School and is hoping to bring Peer Mentors from The Nan Project into Lowell High School to bring awareness to mental health support and suicide.

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

- On 10/4 at the Quarterly State meeting with BSAS and MOAPC Leaders across the state, I initiated the beginning discussions around how MOAPC can work within the limitations of the grant to create more access to Narcan in our community. At the beginning stages of the discussion are plans to identify highest areas of need and train Narcan trainers appropriately with a focus on sustaining these efforts and retaining trainers. This discussion continues and is in basic planning stages.
- At MOAPC Coalition meetings, we are continuing to identify needs for harm reduction awareness (with a focus on Narcan trainings) along with each community identifying possible sustainable resources in each community.

Additional MOAPC activities include:

- Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention
 - On 10/17 MOAPC Coordinator assisted in the facilitation of Billerica's Community Substance Mis-Use forum. This 5 hour event was held in coordination with Billerica Public Schools and well attended by the public.
- Chair of the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Symposium scheduled for December 7th at UTEC in Lowell. This symposium is being developed by many community partners and town representatives (Lowell, GLHA, Billerica, Westford, Trinity, CO-OP, Tewksbury, UMass Lowell, LCHC, among others) to providers across the Merrimack Valley out of the silos to meet, network, and strategize coordination of services moving forward. (meeting weekly through 12/7 - the day of the symposium)
- Ongoing work in the planning and creation of a renewed Drugfreegreaterlowell.org website. This effort has been under development for over a year and is finally moving forward.
- 10/25 MOAPC contributed to and supported coordination of Lowell's Vigil/Night of Remembrance
- MOAPC funded cluster members attending the MIAA Wellness Conference on 10/26. A main topic at this conference is around E-Cigarettes and Vaping, its connection to underage drug use, and how to address and prevent youth in using these products.
- Completed the Quarterly BSAS report on cluster MOAPC activity

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

Lainnie Emond is currently acting as interim PFS Coordinator until position is filled.

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

- Lowell High School: Interim PFS Coordinator has continued to meet with school officials to identify ways that PFS can educate youth, including the utilization of a social media campaign.
- Middlesex Community College: Jonathan Crocket, Director of Athletics, Health, and Wellness, has been a bridge to PFS educating first year students. PFS attended a resource fair on 10/10 at the college, and have been invited to present during several classes.
- Pyne Arts Magnet School: Interim PFS Coordinator presented during a Generation Citizen class of 48 eighth graders on current and upcoming legislation pertaining to substance abuse disorder/resources. The class intends to create a project around a piece of legislation that they believe will be impactful to their community.
- Teen Block (LCHC): PFS will be partnering with SAPC to run 1.5 hour substance abuse groups on Monday afternoons through December.
- Social Media Campaign: The PFS social media campaign to educate youth against the dangers of sharing prescription medications has been spearheaded by Kate Elkins, Community Health Coordinator at the Lowell Health Department. Kate has run two youth focus groups with the proposed social marketing materials, one at Teen Block on 10/1 and another at the Boys and Girls Club on 10/24.

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

- PFS is creating a one page handout identifying strategies to store and dispose of unwanted prescription medications.

Monthly Meeting:

- 10/17

PFS Grant Coordinator Position Updates

- First round interviews are being scheduled for the last week of October and the first week of November.

Other

- Interim PFS Coordinator attended the MassTAPP Quarterly meeting for MOAPC, PFS and SAPC grant holders.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)
Maricia Verma

Presentations and Rapport Building:

- 10/22 CO-OP invited Joe Aniello and Danial Howell from LCHC to attend the first part of the CO-OP meeting; topics of discussion included transportation to treatment and best ways to collaborate.
- 10/12 Middlesex Sheriff's Office (Lowell Community Corrections Office) presented at DA Marion Ryan's Opioid Task Force Meeting, and CO-OP Supervisor was asked to briefly present about CO-OP as CO-OP has an office in the community office.
- Lowell Police Academy asked CO-OP to present to new recruits; date is TBD

Meetings:

- 9/26, 10/22 CO-OP Meeting
- 10/3, 10/30 CO-OP Supervisors Meeting

Trainings:

- 10/23/2018 CPR/First Aid Training attended by CO-OP Supervisor, Lowell House Outreach Worker, and Trinity EMT

Clinical Recovery Specialist (CRS) Active Client Caseload Summary:

Active Clients: 17

Total CO-OP Initial and Attempted Initial Encounters:

38

Client Outreach Highlights:

- Multiple clients requested CO-OP's assistance in advocating for admittance to the shelter.
- Continued distribution of bottled water and bandages
- CO-OP received Bleach Kits, condoms, female condoms, and lube from the Health Department via MDPH for distribution to clients
- CO-OP continues to see periodic reference of meth use in overdose reports
- CO-OP has started to hear that substance abusing clients are snorting Wellbutrin to obtain an amphetamine-like high.

CRS Hiring Process

- First round interviews for the two empty CRS positions were held on 10/12 and 10/19.
- Once candidate has been scheduled for a second interview on 11/5.