

Board of Health Report – July 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: Monday June 29th from 5:30-6:30pm (virtually), no July meeting.*
- 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 in September 2020.

Lowell CO-OP and Related 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 or via conference call at this time.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Lainnie continues to be the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org (see MOAPC report). Lainnie has been updating current and writing new content.
- Lainnie returned to working in to the office on June 19th.
- 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 attended the virtual New England Institute of Addiction Studies Summer School from June 1st – 4th via the MOAPC grant.
- Lainnie worked with partners from Tufts University, UMass Lowell, and Trinity EMS to edit their journal article entitled “Examining the spatial risk environment tied to the opioid crisis through a unique public health, EMS, and academic research collaborative: Lowell, Massachusetts, 2008-2018, which was submitted to Public Health Reports and is currently being considered for publication.

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.

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 preventing youth vaping and marijuana use.

2020 Drug Free Greater Lowell Website Analytics

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

**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 will be posted.
- The June 16th Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day was postponed due to COVID-19 concerns. Planning to hold an upcoming Disposal Day is ongoing.
- The MOAPC grant paid for two MOAPC Coalition members to attend the virtual New England Institute of Addiction Studies Summer School from June 1st – 4th.

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

PFS Social Media Campaign:

Shannon and the contracted graphic designer worked to create the finalized memes for the social media campaign. Instead of running focus groups with youth to gather their feedback on the memes, we will be gathering youth feedback from an online survey about the memes to adjust for social distancing measures placed because of COVID-19. This feedback will be gathered and analyzed by the end of this month.

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 1,025 fliers were distributed to local programs that have access to parents/guardians. Shannon worked with PFS Coalition members to identify additional methods of flier distribution to reach parents/guardians of high-school aged youth. As social distancing measures set in place for COVID-19 have impacted direct contact for flier dissemination and education, PFS Coalition members have also been sharing the educational flier electronically to partners around the community. Shannon also created a new Prescription Medication page on www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org. This resource will be available for the parents/guardians or youth themselves to access and learn more.

Monthly Meeting:

The most recent Partnerships For Success Coalition meeting was held on June 24th from 1-2pm via Zoom. The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for July 22nd and will be held virtually.

Partnership For Success Updates:

- PFS was able to order 40 locking medication pouches which are now available at the Lowell Health Department for community members who are in need of a safe and secure method to store their medications. These locking medication pouches will be distributed to community members who participate in the Lowell Health Department’s Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Days and report that they lack a safe and secure way to store their medications. This does not happen often but, we would like to have them on hand for when this does occur.
- Due to the impact of COVID-19, Shannon and other nonessential staff at the Lowell Health Department have been working from home since the last week of March; however, Shannon will be returning to the office on June 29th. Shannon has continued to update a new timeline for PFS grant activities to adjust for recommendations set in place for COVID-19.
- Shannon has been able to attend virtual trainings while working from home. She was attended the 51st Annual New England Summer School of Addiction and Prevention Studies, which was a full week of different prevention topics. These trainings include topics such as youth substance use 101, neurobiology of addiction, harm reduction and more. The knowledge gained from these trainings will positively impact the PFS grant work moving forward.

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

Lowell CO-OP Data

--	May 2019	May 2020*	2019 Total	2020 Total
Total Encounters	88	17	667	151
Unique Encounters	52	5	378	83
Initial Interaction	17	1	100	22
OD Follow-Up	17	0	116	10
Section 35	5	0	20	3
Clinical Clients	3	4	40	14
Disseminate Narcan	13	0	141	13
SUD Treatment	14	1	158	27
Medical Treatment	3	1	33	6
Other Services	4	1	47	20
Misc. Outreach	--	0	1581	43

**Due to COVID-19 concerns the Lowell CO-OP outreach was restricted on 3/22/2020, as operations return to normal data will be revised.*

Outreach and Educational Events

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
06/25/20	Presentation / Panel Discussion	Rivier University, Division of Nursing and Health Professions Tele-Conference: Substance Use Disorder: COVID-19	Lowell CO-OP Services	60+

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

Relationship Building

Date	Organization	Relationship Building
7/14/2020	LMCC MOAPC Coordinator Lawrence - MA	Lowell CO-OP Supervisor and team to have a virtual meeting and discuss CO-OP services.

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

Additional

- 6/22/2020** The Lowell CO-OP Supervisor and the Clinical Recovery Specialist (CRS) returned to the Lowell CO-OP office located in the Middlesex Sheriff's Lowell Community Counseling Center. The Lowell CO-OP Supervisor and the CRS are currently meeting with clients in the office while socially distancing, and wearing masks in accordance with the City Managers' guidelines. The Lowell Health Department has provided masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes for the Lowell CO-OP team members to use.

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	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41
Clinical Clients	--	--	7	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14
Initial Interaction	--	--	1	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Medical Treatment	--	--	4	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Transportation	--	--	2	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Housing	--	--	5	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Financial	--	--	5	2	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
DCF	--	--	4	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Other	--	--	18	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18

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.

Additional

- CRS maintained contact on a daily basis with LCHC, Lahey Behavioral Health (Tewksbury and Danvers Detox), Lowell General Hospital Bridge Clinic, and treatment/detox facilities outside of the Greater Lowell area.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- Lowell City Council
- Lowell Code Enforcement
- 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 1-24	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Discarded pick-up requests*	20	24	21	14	13	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	107
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	18	9	11	9	8	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	66
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	375	135	547	124	50	76	--	--	--	--	--	--	1,307
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	1125	774	727	882	583	936	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,027
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	50	44	40	51	27.5	50	--	--	--	--	--	--	262.5

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

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