

## **Board of Health Report – January 2021**

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. The 2021 meetings calendar will be released by the end of the 2020 calendar year.
- Lainnie continues to lead the Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Meetings are being held virtually. The Subcommittee continues to meet monthly. The Subcommittee recently released their Winter Readiness "Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA" report, as well as a social media image/flyer and an expanded document with additional recommendations. The next topic that the Subcommittee will report out on is a summary of 10 years of opioid-related data.

### ***Lowell CO-OP and 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 meetings are being held virtually at this time.
- Lainnie is working with Marica Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, and grant partners to create processes (ie. notes, incoming referrals) for the Youth Outreach Specialist, the newest position on the Lowell CO-OP that is funded through the latest round of grant funding awarded to the Lowell Police Department.

### ***Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:***

- Lainnie continues to manage daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division. Lainnie is working on promotional content that highlights services provided by the Division, including a brochure and newsletter.
- Lainnie was part of the 2020 Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium planning committee. The symposium was held virtually on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 9-1pm. Topics included mental health/substance use disorder post bariatric surgery, 10 years of EMS data specific to the opioid epidemic, ACEs, substance use disorder treatment and recovery during a pandemic, motivational interviewing, and racial targeting tactics of the tobacco industry. Overall, nine speakers presented and more than 120 people were in attendance.
- Lainnie continues to be the point person for [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org) (see MOAPC report). Lainnie has been updating current content and writing new content.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

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

***Drug Free Greater Lowell Website***

- [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org) continues to be 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.
- The Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex have started a virtual learning library on the Drug Free Greater Lowell website that houses prevention and harm reduction videos: <https://drugfreegreaterlowell.org/virtual-learning/>. Videos can be shared with community members, youth serving organizations, parents, and youth. As of now, video topics include vaping prevention, internet safety, Narcan training, physiology of addiction, and opioids in dental health. Videos and podcasts will be added as seen fit.

**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	988	930	897	1,016	564	--
Unique Page Views	496	362	390	329	295	325	617	590	640	780	444	--

***Other Updates***

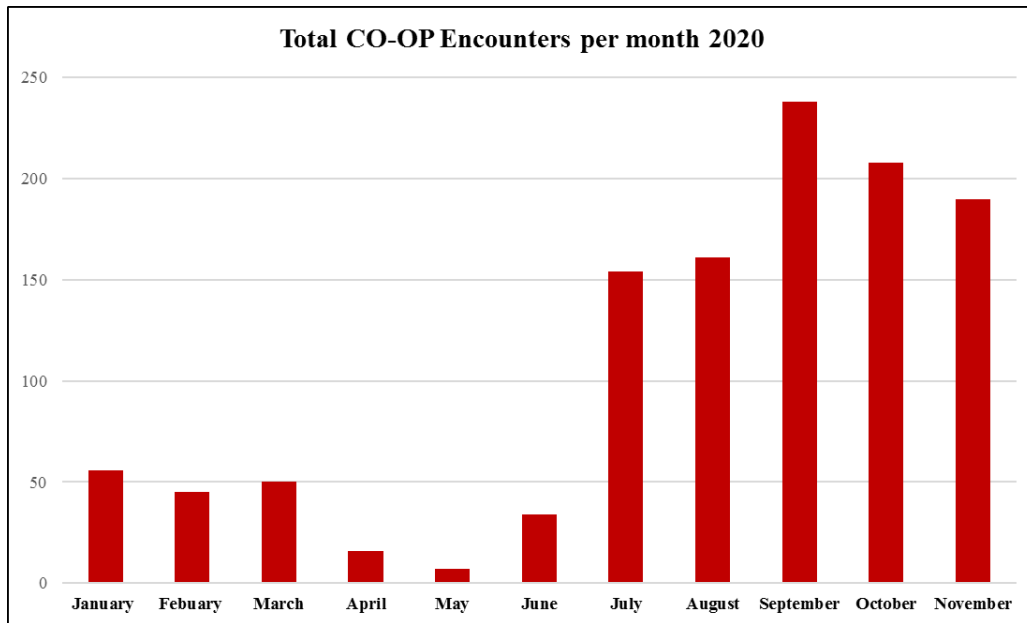
- Greater Lowell MOAPC is not hosting a coalition meeting in December and will resume in January.

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

**Lowell CO-OP Data**

--	Nov 2019	Nov 2020	2019 Total	2020 Total
<b>Total Encounters</b>	41	190	667	1,159
<b>Unique Encounters</b>	34	88	378	550
<b>Initial Interaction</b>	15	19	100	132
<b>OD Follow-Up</b>	10	6	116	95
<b>Section 35</b>	5	1	20	9
<b>Clinical Clients</b>	2	41	40	131
<b>Disseminate Narcan</b>	37	3	141	138
<b>SUD Treatment</b>	8	21	158	170
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	1	2	33	106
<b>Other Services</b>	0	26	47	97
<b>Misc. Outreach</b>	132	97	1581	593

Although the number of Lowell CO-OP encounters decreased in the calendar months of October and November of 2020, the total individual encounters remain more than triple number compared to the months at the beginning of the 2020 calendar year.



**Additional**

- Devin Gilmore started in the position of Youth Outreach Specialist for the Lowell CO-OP on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Outreach Specialist is a Lowell Health Department employee, and will work with youth who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic. In the next Board of Health report, Devin will provide insight into the outreach and clinical work with youths provided by the Lowell CO-OP.

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 (Assistance Director of Outreach 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
<b>Clinical Sessions</b>	--	--	18	16	7	10	65	100	147	135	110	--	<b>608</b>
<b>Clinical Clients</b>	--	--	7	4	3	4	16	23	28	39	41	--	<b>165</b>
<b>Initial Interaction</b>	--	--	1	0	0	0	4	6	7	10	21	--	<b>49</b>
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	--	--	4	1	0	0	6	8	44	36	22	--	<b>121</b>
<b>Transportation</b>	--	--	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	33	--	<b>37</b>
<b>Housing</b>	--	--	5	0	0	0	7	3	27	11	33	--	<b>86</b>
<b>Financial</b>	--	--	5	2	1	1	2	3	55	66	60	--	<b>195</b>
<b>DCF</b>	--	--	4	4	4	1	10	1	27	3	6	--	<b>60</b>
<b>Other</b>	--	--	18	0	0	5	2	8	23	9	22	--	<b>87</b>

<b>Definitions of Data Categories</b>	
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 Information**

- Clinical services staff continued strengthening the collaboration between community partners and the Lowell CO-OP. Joseph Aniello, Clinical Recovery Specialist and Maricia Verma, Lowell COOP Supervisor have been working with Mary Shannon Thomas, Director of Homelessness Initiatives to fill out Balance of State applications for clients in coordination with Mary Shannon Thomas’s COET program.

Syringe Collection Program

*Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator*

**City Department and Community Partner Engagement:**

- Lowell Public Schools
- 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

**Meetings Attended:**

- 12/4 Hunger Homeless Commission Meeting (Virtual; Program Update)
- 12/7 Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium 2020 (Virtual)

**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**

<b>Total Number of...</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec (1-11)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Discarded pick-up requests*	20	24	21	14	13	20	33	45	18	19	13	4	<b>244</b>
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	18	9	11	9	8	16	21	21	15	18	13	7	<b>166</b>
Syringes picked-up while responding to <b>all</b> discarded pick-up requests	375	135	547	124	50	91	205	413	257	198	61	75	<b>2,513</b>
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	1125	774	727	882	583	1190	1824	1946	1218	1345	978	408	<b>13,000</b>
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	50	44	40	51	27.5	66	67	62.5	43	89	45	33.5	<b>609.5</b>