

Board of Health Report – February 3rd, 2021

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager
Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Lowell Mayor's Opioid Task Force:

- Lainnie continues to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force. Upcoming Meetings: January 25th, 2020 from 5:30-6:30pm and February 22nd, 2020 from 5:30-6:30pm

Virtual Reoccurring Meeting Information

Link: <https://lowellma.zoom.us/j/88561406588?pwd=TWNNM2U1VGp6ejBzSWJPK3ZocExyQT09>

Meeting ID: 885 6140 6588

Password: 803020

- Lainnie continues to lead the Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Meetings continue to be held virtually on a monthly basis. The Subcommittee is working on their next "Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA" report, which will highlight 10 years of opioid-related data specific to Lowell.

Lowell CO-OP and Affiliated 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.
- Lainnie worked with Lowell CO-OP agencies to create and release an Opioid Surge Alert on January 7th as Trinity EMS has noted a sharp increase in nonfatal opioid-related illness 9-1-1 calls.

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.
- Lainnie continues to be the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org (see MOAPC report). Lainnie has been updating current content and writing new content.
- Lainnie is volunteering at the Lowell Health Department's first responder COVID-19 vaccine clinics the week of January 11th.
- Lainnie continues to be part of the Mass HEALing Communities Study coalition, which meets monthly and has finished the first of two years in Lowell.
- Lainnie is working with Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator, to schedule sharps drop-off times with community members while the Health Department is closed to the public.

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 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 are building upon our virtual learning library on the Drug Free Greater Lowell website: <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 continue to 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	527
Unique Page Views	496	362	390	329	295	325	617	590	640	780	444	447

Other Updates

- The next Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex (rebranded last year from Greater Lowell MOAPC/Tewksbury SAPC) is scheduled for January 19th, 2020.
- Greater Lowell MOAPC is exploring working with local cultural agencies to translate our recorded [Narcan Training](#) into the top spoken languages in Greater Lowell in addition to English.
- The Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex has established a [Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) page (both monitored by Tewksbury SAPC).

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

Lowell CO-OP Data

--	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total Encounters	56	45	50	16	7	34	154	161	238	208	190	228	1,387
Unique Encounters	24	35	31	4	7	20	87	69	94	91	88	90	640
Initial Interaction	16	5	10	0	0	1	34	3	30	14	19	19	151
OD Follow-Up	8	2	8	0	0	1	35	6	25	4	6	9	104
Section 35	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	10
Clinical Clients	2	2	7	4	3	4	16	24	28	0	41	43	175
Disseminate Narcan	8	3	4	0	7	6	41	29	22	15	3	60	198
SUD Treatment	3	7	17	1	0	1	37	24	25	34	21	18	188
Medical Treatment	3	0	10	0	0	0	4	28	35	24	2	0	106
Other Services	10	3	0	1	0	0	4	1	33	19	26	2	99
Misc. Outreach	23	20	0	0	0	32	125	60	158	78	97	91	684

2020 Calendar Summary

In the first quarter of calendar year 2020, the Lowell CO-OP saw a steady flow of clientele via in person *follow-ups* and *outreach*. In response to Governor Baker’s declared state of emergency due to COVID-19 in March, the various agencies of the Lowell CO-OP pulled back their staff in different ways according to their agency needs. As a result, the number of *follow-ups* and *outreach* were drastically reduced. In late June, Lowell CO-OP team members returned to in-person client *follow-ups* and *outreach*. In late June to early July, the number of individual encounters documented per month more than tripled compared to earlier in the year, and continued to remain at historically high levels through the end of the year. Although the reported nonfatal overdose rate remained relatively stable throughout the calendar year (increasing just slightly towards the end), clients and collateral contacts alike reported an increase in self-reported client relapse and an overall increase in the substance using population in general. This increase in relapse rates of opioids is most likely a reflection of the increase in the social and economic stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional

12/23/2020: Lowell CO-OP Police Officer Andrew Daly and Lowell CO-OP Firefighter Stephen Lyle, in the course of their Lowell CO-OP outreach duties, came across an elderly woman whose groceries had been run over by an errant driver. Officer Daly and Firefighter Lyle deescalated the scene, and noted the groceries that had been destroyed. They returned later that day with replacement groceries for the woman, paid for with their own money. The Lowell Police Department subsequently received a letter expressing gratitude for Officer Daly and Firefighter Lyle going above and beyond their duty. This story received positive attention with local media outlets.

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

Please note that Clinical Staff on the Lowell CO-OP are Joseph Aniello, Maricia Verma (CO-OP Supervisor), and Gianna Sandelli (Assistance Director of Outreach from Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery).

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	65	100	147	135	110	148	756
Clinical Clients	--	--	7	4	3	4	16	23	28	39	41	43	208
Initial Interaction	--	--	1	0	0	0	4	6	7	10	21	5	54
Medical Treatment	--	--	4	1	0	0	6	8	44	36	22	20	141
Transportation	--	--	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	33	2	39
Housing	--	--	5	0	0	0	7	3	27	11	33	39	125
Financial	--	--	5	2	1	1	2	3	55	66	60	66	261
DCF	--	--	4	4	4	1	10	1	27	3	6	3	63
Other	--	--	18	0	0	5	2	8	23	9	22	9	96

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 Information

- Clinical Recovery Specialist partnered with Christina Santos-Gordon, Acting Director of Energy and Community Resources at CTI, to assist clients navigate RAFT grant requirements. The collaboration has been ongoing through phone calls and emails. As a result, several clients have been housed or are receiving funding for housing.
- Clinical Recovery Specialist partnered with Mary Rodriguez at DTA, and other representatives, to assist mutual clients in navigating DTA benefits. This has been ongoing through phone calls, emails, and use of the DTA website. This has resulted in several clients receiving SNAP benefits and cash assistance.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – **Youth Services**
Devin Gilmore, Youth Outreach Specialist

Youth Outreach Specialist:

Lowell CO-OP aims to refer 100% of the youth directly affected by the opioid crisis who come into contact with our team to services which can help address their needs. By combining case management services, educational programming, and community collaboration, the Youth Outreach Specialist will support this initiative, educate community stakeholders and adolescents about prevention, and provide opioid intervention for youth under 25 in Lowell.

Lowell CO-OP Youth Services Data:

To allow for time spent acclimating to the Lowell CO-OP team and completing essential trainings, the collection of youth services data by the Youth Outreach Specialist will begin in the month of January, 2021. As of now, the Youth Outreach Specialist has received seven referrals from community partners concerning youth in the area who may benefit from care coordination in the coming month.

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

The Youth Outreach Specialist personally contacted the listed providers to obtain insights concerning referral processes, accepted insurances, and application requirements for their programs. These conversations helped the Youth Outreach Specialist identify the mission of these programs and opportunities for future collaborations between Lowell CO-OP and the agencies in question.

- Circle Care’s Bridge Clinic
- The Bridge Club of Greater Lowell
- Salvation Army’s Bridging the Gap
- Office of Community Corrections
- Alkermes, Inc.
- Project Kompass
- Community Teamwork Inc.’s Mill You
- Middlesex House of Corrections’ PACT Unit
- Eliot Church
- Life Connection Center
- Lowell House Recovery Café
- Lowell Community Health Center
- Second Chance Cars
- Arbor Counseling
- Bridgewell Counseling
- Southbay Mental Health
- Lowell Police Department Family Services Unit
- Lowell Transitional Living Center
- Office of Veteran’s Affairs
- Vinfen’s Healthy Transitions 2
- Boston Medical Center’s MassHEAL
- Greater Lowell Health Alliance

Meetings Attended:

- 12/8 Systems of Care Meeting (Virtual)
- 12/10 Lowell Connector Meeting (Virtual)

Training and Professional Development:

- FEMA Emergency Management Institute, 12 Hours