

Board of Health Report – March 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: February 22nd and March 29th 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 continuing to work 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 Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, Youth Outreach Specialist, and grant partners to create processes and outreach materials for the Youth Outreach Specialist position, 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 continues to be the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org (see MOAPC report). Lainnie has been updating current content and writing new content.
- Lainnie continues to volunteer at the Lowell Health Department's COVID-19 vaccine clinics as needed.
- Lainnie continues to be part of the Mass HEALing Communities Study coalition.
- Lainnie continues to work 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.
- Planning for the 2021 Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium began in February. Lainnie will again be a member of the planning committee.

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. Website content is updated frequently.

2021 Drug Free Greater Lowell Website Analytics

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Page Views	721	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unique Page Views	589	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Top pages viewed on the Drug Free Greater Lowell website in January were: (1) Youth Vaping, (2) Community Resources and Information on Substance Use Disorder, (3) Treatment Resources, (4) About, and (5) Communities of Greater Lowell.

Other Updates

- The next Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex (rebranded last year from Greater Lowell MOAPC/Tewksbury SAPC) monthly coalition meetings are scheduled virtually for February 16th, 2021 and March 16th, 2021.
- Greater Lowell MOAPC is exploring working with local cultural agencies to translate our recorded [Narcain 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).
- Data collection has commenced for each Greater Lowell MOAPC community to identify sustainable events, programs, positions, policies, and initiatives that have been established since the start of the grant. These data points will be turned into an infographic timeline to show how our cluster evolved over time to address the opioid epidemic. Communities are also encouraged to share stories about the work that their community has engaged in for the final grant report; this way, communities will have a chance to present themselves in addition to the data that they've shared over the years.
- On February 18th, 2021, MOAPC providing funding for two coalition members to attend a virtual entitled "Intersections of Suicide and Opioid Use: A Gatekeeper Training"

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

Lowell CO-OP Data: 2020 and 2021 Comparison

--	Jan 2020	Jan 2021	2020 Total	2021 Total
Total Encounters	56	204	1387	204
Unique Encounters	24	88	640	88
Initial Interaction	16	29	151	29
OD Follow-Up	8	22	104	22
Section 35	2	0	10	0
Clinical Clients	2	38	175	38
Disseminate Narcan	8	112	198	112
SUD Treatment	3	10	188	10
Medical Treatment	3	2	106	2
Other Services	10	3	99	3
Misc. Outreach	23	137	684	137

City of Lowell Point In Time (PIT) Count

- The Lowell CO-OP, along with other community partners, will typically assist the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) in conducting the annual homeless PIT count. Because of COVID-19 concerns about maintaining social distancing, and other City and CDC guidelines, the PIT Count was modified that so that agencies familiar with the homeless population would consolidate their information and minimize interactions with individuals.
- 1/21/2021 Mary Shannon Thomas, Director of Homeless Initiatives, for the City of Lowell's Department of Planning and Development (DPD), joined the Lowell CO-OP Meeting to discuss the annual Point in Time Count (PIT) of homeless individuals in the city. Mary Shannon Thomas and the Lowell CO-OP discussed which encampments were currently active, and the approximate population at each. It was agreed that the Lowell CO-OP team would conduct outreach at the homeless encampments and report population numbers to Mary Shannon Thomas within the time requirements for the PIT count.
- On 1/26/2021 the Lowell CO-OP visited known occupied encampments, and reported their best estimate of the population therein, to Mary Shannon Thomas.

Additional

On 2/9/2021 and 2/11/2021 Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, Maricia Verma, and Youth Outreach Specialist, Devin Gilmore attended a virtual training of AdCare's "Implementing Seeking Safety with Adolescents." Seeking Safety is a present-focused therapy to help people from trauma, PTSD, and substance use.

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 Data: 2020 and 2021 Comparison

--	Jan 2021	Jan 2020	Total 2020	Total 2021
Clinical Sessions	135	--	756	135
Clinical Clients	38	--	208	38
Initial Interaction	2	--	54	2
Medical Treatment	47	--	141	47
Transportation	6	--	39	6
Housing	61	--	125	61
Financial	57	--	261	57
DCF	4	--	63	4
Other	143	--	96	143

Brief Client Case Example

This section will be used to share success stories of clients working with Lowell CO-OP's clinical staff. Success stories help to frame the work of the Lowell CO-OP, and adds context to the various needs and levels of support that Lowell CO-OP clients face as they work towards recovery.

Joseph started working with a specific client in March 2020, while the client was enrolled at a local a 6 - 9 month residential substance use program. Joseph assisted client with Department of Children and Families, and supported client as they completed the process of reunification with all 3 of their children in December 2020. Joseph also assisted client in October 2020 with RAFT and Section 8 housing applications through working in collaboration with CTI. Client has since received RAFT and Section 8 services, and client successfully secured an apartment in Lowell in February 2021. Client has continually worked with Joseph on their 12 step recovery process; Joseph assisted client to establish a relationship with a sponsor. Client is currently in the maintenance phase of her recovery.

Additional Information

Joseph continues to collaborate with community partners, such as the Department of Mental Health, Lowell Transitional Living Center, Lowell Community Health Center, Community Teamwork Inc., VinFin, Eliot Church, and Life Connections, as well as area recovery programs.

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

The mission of the Youth Outreach Specialist is to reduce the impact of the opioid epidemic on Lowell’s youth and families. The Youth Outreach Specialist honors this mission by offering educational programming, community collaboration, and case management services to local youth under 25 and their families.

Outreach and Educational Events

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
1-14-2021	Virtual Presentation	Salvation Army’s Bridging the Gap	Opioid Education	6
1-21-2021	Virtual Presentation	Lowell House SOAP	Opioid Education	12
1-29-2021	Virtual Presentation	Department of Children and Families	CO-OP Youth Services	9
3-3-2021	Virtual Presentation	Health Department, School Nurses	CO-OP Youth Services	5

Community Partners

The Youth Outreach Specialist continues to build relationships with local agencies and organizations serving Lowell’s youth and families. Below is a list of partners that the Youth Outreach Specialist has established contact with in February for the purposes of ongoing collaboration and care coordination:

- YouthBuild
- UTEC
- Big Brother/Big Sister
- YWCA Lowell Acre Youth Center
- Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell
- Center for Hope and Healing, Inc.
- Girls, Inc. of Greater Lowell
- Institute for Health and Recovery (IHR) Lowell
- Teen BLOCK Program
- The Megan House Foundation, Inc.
- Pegasus House
- Project Kompass
- YMCA's STRIVE Program
- Trauma & Family Integration (TFI)
- Wayside Youth and Family Support Network
- Community Healthlink's Motivating Youth Recovery (MYR)
- JRI's Children's Friends and Family Services (CFFS)
- NFI Lowell Family Resource Center
- Department of Children and Families
- Lowell Adult Education Center
- UMass Lowell
- Goodwin Community Health
- Wayside’s STARR (Short-Term Acute Rapid Reunification) Program
- HarborCare's Keystone Hall
- Hampstead Hospital
- McLean Hospital’s ART Program
- North Shore Medical Center