

Board of Health Report – July 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: June 28th from 5:30-6:30pm, no July meeting

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 has finalized the Opioid Storyboard Project, a visual representation of the impact of the opioid epidemic on Lowell and the city's collective response, and will be printing and advertising the materials in FY22.

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.
- Lainnie continues to attend monthly Smart Policing Grant Initiative conference calls with Lowell CO-OP partners and technical assistance providers.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Lainnie continues to manage daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.
- Lainnie is a member of the planning committee for the 2021 Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium, which is scheduled for December 10th, 2021. The Symposium will be held in person at the Westford Regency pending pandemic guidelines, and there is back-up planning to host the Symposium virtually if necessary.
- Lainnie continues to be involved in the Lowell Mass HEALing Communities Study and is a member of the Communication Subcommittee.
- On June 1st, Lainnie, Andres Gonzalez, Devin Gilmore, and Shannon Gray hosted an educational table at the Greater Lowell PRIDE Flag Raising event. Roughly 20 people were engaged, and educated on topics including sun safety, syringe collection/disposal, and Lowell CO-OP services.
- Lainnie participated in a Mental Health First Aid training run by Devin Gilmore and Maria Ruggiero on June 21st, 2021.
- Lainnie attended a full-day of training for NEIAS Virtual Summer School on June 8th, 2021.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

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

Please note that the contract for the Greater Lowell MOAPC grant is scheduled to end on June 30th, 2021.

Drug Free Greater Lowell Website

- www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org continues to be maintained via the MOAPC grant. Website content, news, and events are updated frequently. Community partners and residents are encouraged to reach out to Lainnie (LEmond@lowellma.gov) with upcoming events and suggestions for additional/missing content).

Other Updates

- The Prevention Professionals of Northern Middlesex continue to assess the coalition's understanding of cultural humility and needs within the coalition.
- Greater Lowell MOAPC is partnering with UMass Lowell to analyze data for the lifetime of the grant. This project started this April, and the final report will be available on June 30th.

Medication and Sharps Disposal

- On June 16th, 2021, Lainnie Emond planned and Andres Gonzalez ran a closed, two hour medication and sharps disposal event for the Lowell Public School nurses. Lowell Police Department was a partner in this effort. The school nurses that attended the event disposed of *22 pounds of unwanted medication* and *103 pounds of unwanted sharps*.

Future Lowell Substance Misuse Prevention Efforts

- The Lowell Health Department has been awarded the Massachusetts Collaborative for Action, Leadership, and Learning 3 (MassCALL3) from MDPH BSAS. MassCALL3 aims to prevent and/or reduce use and misuse of substance of first use (ie. alcohol, nicotine, and marijuana). MassCALL3 will start in July 2021 and will build upon MOAPC, SAPC, and PFS efforts in Lowell. MassCALL3 will be housed within the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division. A grant coordinator position will be created to oversee the day-to-day grant activities. Lainnie will lead grant efforts until a coordinator is hired, and will then supervise the grant coordinator throughout the lifetime of the grant. The first month of MassCALL3 grant efforts will be focused on reading readiness documentation and connecting with assigned BSAS grant coordinator and technical assistance liaison.

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

Lowell CO-OP Data: 2020 and 2021 Comparison

--	May 2020	May 2021	2020 Total	2021 Total
Total Encounters	7	180	1,387	1,012
Unique Encounters	7	97	640	435
Initial Interaction	0	18	151	115
OD Follow-Up	0	4	104	59
Section 35	0	3	10	16
Clinical Clients	3	60	175	236
Disseminate Narcan	7	84	198	307
SUD Treatment	0	18	188	64
Medical Treatment	0	16	106	54
Other Services	0	7	99	64
Misc. Outreach	0	208	684	521

Additional

- On 6/1/2021 Maricia and Lowell CO-OP team members Gianna Sandelli and Stephen Lyle had a virtual meeting with Justin Towne, Director, and Patrick Sullivan, Clinical Supervisor of Beth Israel Lahey Health’s Lowell crisis team to build relationships and discuss community need.
- On 6/16/2021 Marica met with Lauryn Carr, Team Lead, and Don Ihebom, Engagement Counselor, from Eliot PATH Homeless Outreach to build relationships and discuss community need.
- On 6/21/2021 Devin Gilmore, Youth Outreach Specialist, and Maria Ruggiero, Prevention Division Program Manager from the Front-Line Initiative, hosted a Youth Mental Health First Aid Training. Maricia Verma and Lowell CO-OP team members Gianna Sandelli and Evan Lucey attended.
- On 7/2/2021 Maricia and the Lowell CO-OP team will be giving a presentation and Narcan training to the staff and volunteers at the Eliot Church. Topics will include substance use, signs and symptoms, and the Lowell CO-OP services.
- Maricia continues to supervise the day to day operation of the Lowell CO-OP, work with community partners, and provide coordination and guidance for more complex clinical clients.

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

--	May 2020	May 2021	Total 2020	Total 2021
Clinical Sessions	7	141	756	632
Clinical Clients	7	58	208	216
Initial Interaction	0	19	54	45
Medical Treatment	0	19	141	109
Transportation	0	5	39	23
Housing	0	30	125	242
Financial	1	39	261	270
DCF	4	2	63	12
Other	0	14	96	344

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.

In January of 2021, Joseph established a relationship with a young woman with substance abuse issues and a disability. Joseph was able to collaborate with Lowell Community Health Center to secure specialized care for her disability. Joseph also collaborated with Lowell Housing Authority to expedite client's housing due to disability. Client is currently on the short list to secure housing within the next three months. Subsequent to receiving housing, the client will begin working an agency specializing in teaching individuals her disability to be independent. Joseph continues to work with client on recovery and relapse prevention tools.

Additional Information

- Joseph has begun collaborating with Gordon Halm from the African Community Center of Lowell on how to best serve the needs of the individuals within Lowell's African population that are struggling with substance abuse and homelessness issues.

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

Youth Services Data

--	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Youth Services Sessions	--	17	51	70	59	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	197
Youth Services Clients	--	6	16	15	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	53
SUD Treatment and Recovery Coordination	--	--	15	24	21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	60
Healthcare Coordination	--	14	14	14	15	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	57
Housing Coordination	--	4	7	16	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	39
Youth Connected to Services within 48 Hours	--	7	14	8	14	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	43
Care Coordination Meetings with Family/Collaterals	--	9	25	18	45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	97

Brief Client Case Example

This section will be used to share success stories of clients working with Lowell CO-OP’s youth services staff. Success stories help to frame the work of Lowell CO-OP, and adds context to the various needs and levels of support Lowell CO-OP works to address in preventative services.

In March of 2021, Devin established a relationship with a young client new to Lowell who was residing at the local shelter. Devin referred this young woman to CTI Youth Services, where she has received ongoing housing coordination, including grants specifically to be used for obtaining a market rate unit in the area. Since working with Lowell CO-OP, this client has obtained identification for the first time, began treatment processes to address several outstanding medical conditions, obtained new employment, and received financial assistance for legal services. Devin meets with this client and her housing case managers regularly to provide housing and healthcare coordination, help build communication between the client and her various service providers, and increase the client’s coping skills.

Additional

- In June, Devin will be facilitating several virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings with co-trainer Maria Ruggiero of the Tewksbury Police Department for local providers from CTI Youth Services, Project Kompass, Lowell General Hospital, members of the Lowell CO-OP, and several members of the Lowell Health Department. These trainings by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing equip youth-facing providers with a unique skill set they can utilize to recognize and respond to young people in crisis and non-crisis situations.
- Devin is creating educational tools to be distributed among youth, families, and youth-serving agencies in Lowell, including age-appropriate “watch lists” directing high school and college students toward documentaries available to provide education on opioids. She is also creating a resource booklet describing various substance use treatment services and listing local providers, including their contact information. This will be made available to youth-facing providers in Lowell so they can more easily navigate referrals to treatment, recovery, and preventative services.