

Board of Health Report – January 2022

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. Next meeting is scheduled for January 31st, 2022; see attached meeting schedule for the 2022 calendar year.

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 current analyzing local data sets specific to opioid overdose and program engagement with the intention of highlighting disparities between racial and ethnic populations. Data sets show an increase in engagement in treatment and harm reduction services, as well as an increase in Opioid Related Incidents (Trinity EMS), with the Hispanic/Latinx population. Partners including the Lowell Health Department, Lowell Police Department, and Trinity EMS continue to actively prepare to host a meeting with local Hispanic/Latinx community leaders.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Grant

As this grant concluded in September 2021, Lainnie and grant partners from the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell continue to work on the final grant report, which they anticipate to submit before the end of December 2021.

Lowell CO-OP and Affiliated Grant Efforts:

The Lowell Police Department's Smart Policing Initiative grant, which provided funding to the Lowell CO-OP since 2017, concluded in September 2021. Lainnie, Maricia Verma (Lowell CO-OP Supervisor), and grant partners from the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell will formally submit the final report by December 17th.

www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org

Lainnie has been updating content on the website, including revamping the Naloxone and Medication Assisted Treatment pages. Lainnie plans to meet with Greater Lowell partners in the first quarter of 2022 to create a plan to improve utilization and advertisement of the website throughout our communities.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

Lainnie is a member of the planning committee for 2021 Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium, which was held virtually on December 10th, 2021 from 9am - 1pm. **93 participants attended** the six different breakout rooms that were offered throughout the event. Planning for the 2022 Symposium will begin in January 2022.

Massachusetts Collaborative for Action, Leadership, and Learning 3 (MassCALL3)
Devin Gilmore, Substance Use Prevention Grant Coordinator

Grant Summary

The Lowell Health Department has been awarded the MassCALL3 grant from MDPH/BSAS. MassCALL3 aims to prevent and/or reduce the use and misuse of substances of first use (i.e. alcohol, nicotine, and cannabis). MassCALL3 Lowell will build upon prevention infrastructure developed through MOAPC, SAPC, and PFS initiatives in our city and region.

Grant Timeline

MassCALL3 was awarded to the Lowell Health Department on July 1st, 2021. MassCALL3 is a two-year grant with three two-year opportunities for grant extension.

First Coalition Meeting

Devin held a Youth Substance Use Prevention Information Session virtually on December 14th. In this meeting, Devin collected qualitative data related to youth substance use risks, consequences, and prevention programming capacity in Lowell from approximately 34 participants. In this meeting, key informants and stakeholders were identified who can commit to incorporating Lowell MassCALL3's goals within their own work and be closely involved in some or all stages of our [Strategic Prevention Framework](#) (SPF). This group will continue to meet on a semi-regular basis as necessary to support our grant process and will be referred to as the "Mill City Prevention Network". Lowell MassCALL3's next SPF stage, Assessment, is projected to begin in February of 2022.

Preparing for Assessment

Devin's daily grant efforts include the collection and organization of existing and new data related to youth substance use in Lowell and building on existing infrastructure to develop a group of community members and stakeholders who will sustain and continually evaluate prevention policies, programs, and practices long-term.

State Opioid Response – Prevention in Early Childhood 3 (SOR-PEC)

*** Lainnie Emond is overseeing grant efforts until a SOR-PEC Grant Coordinator is hired***

Grant Summary

The Lowell Health Department has been awarded the SOR-PEC grant from MDPH/BSAS. SOR-PEC aims to:

1. Strengthen prevention capacity and infrastructure within funded communities to support a proposed age range of children (prenatal – 11 years of age) and family units with parents/caregivers with a history of substance misuse and addiction (including those currently in treatment or recovery); and
2. Enhance protective factors and minimize risk factors in the lives of a proposed age range of children (prenatal – 11 years of age) with elevated levels of risk for future substance use and related health and behavioral health issues.

Grant Timeline

SOR-PEC was awarded to the Lowell Health Department with a start date of July 14th, 2021. The grant is scheduled to run until September 29th, 2022. MDPH/BSAS reported that they anticipated that the possibility for extension funding will be announced next spring.

Coalition and Upcoming Meetings

The Lowell Early Childhood Advisory Council has agreed to be the decision making body for Lowell SOR-PEC. The Lowell Early Childhood Advisory Council is comprised of local experts working with youth 8 years of age and younger in various capacities.

Other

Lainnie attended the BSAS Annual Conference, which was held virtually over three days from December 7th through December 9th, as a representative for Lowell SOR-PEC.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- MVRTA
- Heritage State Park
- Lowell Housing Authority
- Lowell Public Schools
- Lowell City Council
- Lowell Public Works
- 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:

- 11/29/2021 Lowell Mayor's Opioid Task Force
- 12/02/2021 DA's Opioid Task Force
- 12/07/2021 (COET) Coordinating Outreach and Engagement Teams
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Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- Veteran's Way
- Gorham Street
- Sheehy Park
- 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

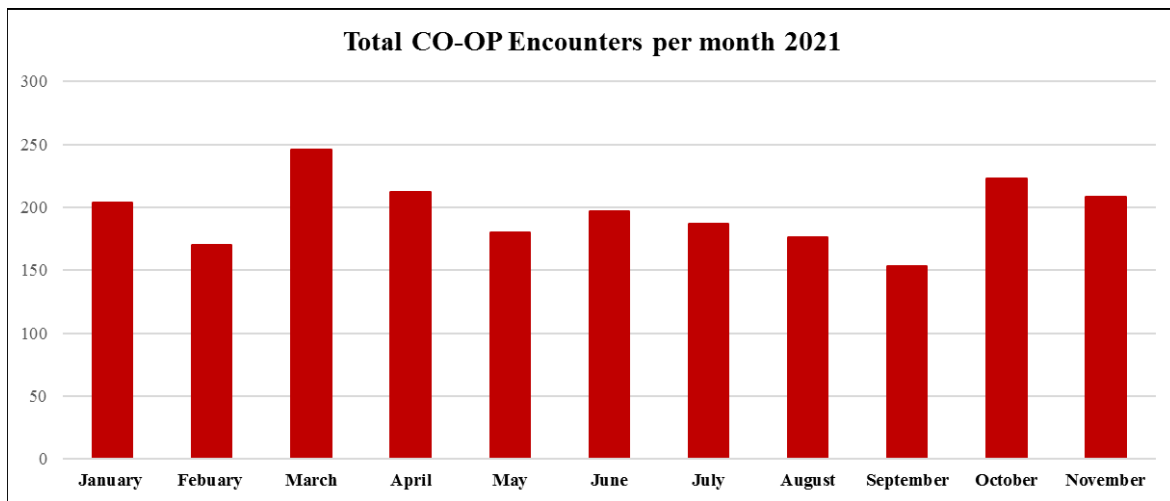
Syringe Collection Activity 2021

Total Number of...	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec 1-9	Total
Discarded pick-up requests	12	7	20	15	17	9	20	15	17	14	8	11	165
Incoming pick-up request calls	6	5	30	17	12	10	19	9	18	18	19	11	174
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	60	60	215	134	61	52	255	66	116	335	65	164	1,583
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	23
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	686	141	1357	1008	1215	1603	1275	1260	1274	876	987	245	11,909
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	77	57	99	66	74	93	82	71	17	56	68	19	840
Pounds of sharps disposed via Sharps Disposal Kiosk	33	20	22	36	35	51	71	40	47	75	5	--	435

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

Lowell CO-OP Data: 2020 and 2021 Comparison

--	November 2020	November 2021	2020 Total	2021 Total
Total Encounters	190	208	1387	2,156
Unique Encounters	88	121	640	1,076
Initial Interaction	19	38	151	311
OD Follow-Up	6	21	104	128
Section 35	1	2	10	32
Clinical Clients	41	91	174	694
Disseminate Narcan	3	18	198	696
SUD Treatment	21	27	188	268
Medical Treatment	2	2	106	91
Other Services	26	0	99	97
Misc. Outreach	97	115	684	1,385



The Lowell CO-OP monthly encounters peaked in March of 2021, and steadily declined until October of 2021. This could possibly reflect the ending of certain COVID-19 pandemic economic benefits and the moratorium on evictions.

Additional

Maricia continues to work with Lainnie Emond, Maryann Manzi (Lowell Police Department Public Safety Research and Planning Director), Katie Keefe, Lowell Police Department Program Director), and the research team at UMass Lowell on the final report for the Smart Police Initiative grant, which helped to fund the Lowell CO-OP from October 2016 through September 2021.

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

--	November 2020	November 2021	Total 2020	Total 2021
Clinical Sessions	110	172	756	1534
Clinical Clients	41	91	208	590
Initial Interaction	21	22	54	253
Medical Treatment	22	31	141	265
Transportation	33	24	39	139
Housing	33	97	125	633
Financial	60	110	26	726
DCF	6	10	63	40
Other	22	59	96	374

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 homeless women with severe mental health issues in February 2021. Joseph worked on developing trust with client though next several months. Joseph helped client navigate Department of Transitional Assistance and client began receiving benefits in October 2021. Joseph also scheduled Social Security Disability intake, client completed this intake in November 2021. In November 2021, Joseph assisted client with needs areas including transitional housing and connecting with Department of Mental Health to complete an intake. Joseph also was able to assist client in obtaining a Mass ID for client through Registry of Motor Vehicles. Joseph continues to interact with client on a regular basis. Client is in contemplation stage of recovery at this time.

Additional

Joseph and Gianna have taken on the Youth Outreach Specialist clients since Devin Gilmore’s transition to a new role within the Division, and have begun working with several community partners for high risk youth. Joseph has begun collaborating with Community Teamwork Inc.’s Youth Division for more than ten clients. Joseph has also been in contact with Lowell and Lawrence Probation Departments to assist our youth clients to maintain contact with their respective probation departments, as well as meeting their department requirements of these agencies.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – **Youth Services**

Completed by Maricia Verma in the interim

Youth Outreach Specialist (YOS) Update

The week of 12/13/2021, Maricia and Lainnie Emond will begin first round interviews for the YOS position. Second round interviews will be scheduled in the following week(s) with Maricia, Lainnie, and members of the Lowell CO-OP. The YOS job description will remain posted on the City’s website until filled.

Gianna Sandelli (Clinical Outreach Specialist from Lowell House) and Joseph Aniello (Clinical Recovery Specialist from the Lowell Health Department) continue to share the YOS case load while the position is vacant.

Youth Services Data

--	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Youth Services Sessions	--	17	51	70	59	49	37	64	38	11	32	--	428
Youth Services Clients	--	6	16	15	16	15	12	23	12	7	16	--	138
SUD Treatment and Recovery Coordination	--	--	15	24	21	10	3	7	6	14	23	--	123
Healthcare Coordination	--	14	14	14	15	15	7	11	5	1	7	--	103
Housing Coordination	--	4	7	16	12	8	9	9	6	9	15	--	95
Youth Connected to Services within 48 Hours	--	7	14	8	14	17	10	16	17	--	--	--	103
Care Coordination Meetings with Family/Collaterals	--	9	25	18	45	29	19	26	23	--	--	--	194

After considerations to current and anticipated staff changes, changes to data collection and analysis are underway. Data points for “Youth Connected to Services within 48 Hours” and “Care Coordination Meetings with Family/Collaterals” are not accounted for October and November.