

Board of Health Report – March 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 Task Force to create monthly agendas and invite new partners. Next meetings are scheduled for March 28th and April 25th from 5:30-6:30pm. All are welcome to join virtually:

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

Lainnie continues to lead the ***Data Subcommittee*** of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. The Subcommittee continues to analyze local data sets specific to opioid overdose and program engagement with the intention of highlighting disparities between racial and ethnic populations. The Subcommittee is drafting a one-page summary of data.

Federal Grant Application

Lainnie led an effort with Maricia Verma (Lowell CO-OP Supervisor), Gianna Sandelli (Lowell CO-OP member, Assistant Director of Outreach, Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery), and partners from UMass Lowell to apply for SAMHSA's FY 2022 Harm Reduction Grant to enhance outreach efforts for the Lowell CO-OP and Lowell House's MOUD Outreach Team, as well as increase the supply and availability of harm reduction supplies in the community.

Trainings

On February 16th and 17th, Lainnie attended two full days of virtual "level 1" training on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted by Adcare and facilitate by [Human in Common](#).

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities

- Lainnie oversees the day-to-day operations of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, and provides direct supervision to three Division team members.
- Lainnie has begun planning an Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day event for the spring.
- Lainnie is a steering committee member for the 2022 Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium. Planning for this year's event has begun.
- Lainnie continues to be the point-person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org

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

Mill City Prevention Network

Mill City Prevention Network is hosting two upcoming Community Roundtables that include spotlight presentations from more than six local agencies offering services to youth and families. In these sessions, we will be asking for feedback from the parents and guardians in attendance about the resources they look for in our community and what services they have encountered barriers in accessing. We hope to leave these sessions with a better understanding of local families' perceptions of community programming and resources to eventually use in consideration of future program development and the development of our grant's Strategic Prevention Plan. Mill City Prevention Network will hold their next meeting virtually on March 31st. *Please see the attached flyers for more details about our upcoming Community Roundtables.*



Prevention Programming

The following upcoming prevention opportunities are part of Devin's capacity building efforts in MassCALL3's Strategic Prevention Framework.

- Devin will present to more than 160 students in grades 5 – 8 at the Butler School on February 28th and March 1st. These presentations aim to combine social emotional learning with drug and alcohol education to promote prosocial attitudes and behaviors while increasing the perception of harm among youth from alcohol, nicotine, and cannabis. These presentations will continue to be offered free of charge for Lowell's health educators to incorporate into their class plans.
- Devin is scheduled to present to the young people enrolled in YouthBuild's workforce development program on March 7th and 14th as part of a Division-wide initiative.
- On March 16th and 17th, Devin will attend a training on CATCH My Breath's vaping prevention curriculum which she will then be able to offer to health educators in Lowell to incorporate into their class plans.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

Winter Bathroom Announcement campaign is in effect. Over 60 Local businesses have been targeted.

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:

- 02/01/2022 & 02/22/2022 (COET) Coordinating Outreach and Engagement Teams
- 02/24/2022 DA's Opioid Task Force

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- Veteran's Way
- Gorham Street
- 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 2022

Total Number of...	Jan	Feb (1-23)	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Discarded pick-up requests	4	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12
Incoming pick-up request calls	12	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	50	57	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	107
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	502	393	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	895
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	48	40	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	88
Pounds of sharps disposed via Sharps Disposal Kiosk	18	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	38

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

Lowell CO-OP Data: 2020 and 2021 Comparison

--	January 2021	January 2022	2021 Total	2022 Total
Total Encounters	204	235	2,347	235
Unique Encounters	88	124	1187	124
Initial Interaction	29	49	346	49
OD Follow-Up	22	20	134	20
Section 35	0	1	35	1
Clinical Clients	38	94	771	94
Disseminate Narcan	112	106	780	106
SUD Treatment	10	29	294	29
Medical Treatment	2	11	100	11
Other Services	3	22	131	22
Misc. Outreach	137	241	1,499	241

Relationship Building and Community Engagement

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
3/21/2022	Presentation	CTI YouthBuild	Substance Use and Narcan	--
3/28/2022	Presentation	CTI YouthBuild	Substance Use and Narcan	--

Additional

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: 2021 and 2022 Comparison

--	January 2021	January 2022	Total 2021	Total 2022
Clinical Sessions	135	182	1,671	182
Clinical Clients	38	94	775	94
Initial Interaction	2	25	178	25
Medical Treatment	47	24	280	24
Transportation	6	22	150	22
Housing	61	68	690	68
Financial	57	105	809	105
DCF	4	1	43	1
Other	143	24	408	24

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 encountered a young adult in October of 2020. Client was experiencing substance use, as well as mental health and homelessness issues. Joseph connected client to Lowell Transitional Living Center, and helped client secure temporary housing, and as well as mental health services at Lowell Community Health Center. Joseph also did a warm hand off to the newly hired Youth Outreach Specialist in February of 2021, and continued to have supplemental recovery discussions with client. Joseph began working with client more closely in October 2021 after the Youth Outreach Specialist position became vacated. Client and Joseph worked with Youth Services at Community Teamwork Inc. Joseph has recently navigated client to Trinity Care Associates and Life Connections Center for mental health and emergency housing, respectively. Joseph will continue works with client on a regular basis for housing, mental health, and substance use needs.

Additional

Joseph began working with the Renaissance Club, an adult day program in Lowell, and Vinfen Community Support Program, an adult outreach program, on behalf of several clients. Both of these organizations serve those with severe mental health issues.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – **Youth Services**
Completed by Maricia Verma in the interim

Youth Outreach Specialist (YOS) Update

Rhiannon Archambault started as the Youth Outreach Specialist on February 14th. While Rhiannon learns the position, Gianna Sandelli (Assistant Director of Outreach from Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery) and Joseph Aniello (Clinical Recovery Specialist from the Lowell Health Department) will continue to share the youth case load. Rhiannon will take over the following Youth Services Board of Health reports.

Youth Services Data

--	January 2021	January 2022	2021 Total	2022 Total
Youth Services Sessions	--	22	447	22
Engaged Youth Services Clients	--	7	147	7
SUD Treatment and Recovery Coordination	--	13	131	13
Healthcare Coordination	--	5	105	5
Housing Coordination	--	3	103	3

A Note about the 2022 Data

Lowell CO-OP clinical staff and Lainnie Emond decided to modify the data shared in the above chart for consistency and clarity for the 2022 calendar year.

2021 Monthly Overview of Youth Services Sessions

