

Board of Health Report: January 2023

Substance Abuse and Prevention, Lowell Health Department

Massachusetts Collaborative for Action, Leadership, and Learning 3 (MassCALL3)

Devin Gilmore, Substance Use Prevention Grant Coordinator

Grant Updates

Devin submitted the first deliverable of the Lowell MassCALL3 Strategic Plan (SPP) on November 30th. The SPP is a detailed plan of action to address particular variables found to increase risk for youth substance misuse in Lowell.

Mill City Prevention Network

Devin hosted the Quarterly Planning Meeting of Mill City Prevention Network virtually on December 22nd. The coalition reviewed preliminary findings of Lowell MassCALL3's assessment of youth substance misuse trends and other related factors to begin the grant's third phase: Strategic Planning.

Health Education

- Devin hosted the Health Education Taskforce virtually on December 8th. The Health Education Taskforce is a space where health educators from local schools and youth-serving organizations come together to share resources and strengthen existing curricula.
- Devin visited STEM Academy and the Career Academy to review available resources teachers and staff can implement in their respective schools to prevent or reduce youth substance misuse.
- Devin presented a workshop to 5th and 6th graders in their health classes at Bartlett Middle School December 12th—16th.
- Devin presented on substance misuse practices at school and in the home to parents attending Butler Middle School's Family Night on December 20th.

Professional Development

- Devin attended the virtual Breathe for Change Yoga and Mindfulness Teacher Training on December 10th and 11th. She and nine other youth-serving professionals in Lowell will complete 200 hours of training from October 2022 – March 2023.
- Devin Attended the Annual BSAS Prevention Grantee Coordinator's Meeting on December 7th. The virtual meeting featured a presentation by Scott Formica on evidence-based practices versus evidence-informed to help grant coordinators better understand the resources available to review as part of the strategic planning and implementation processes.

Racial Equity

Devin is offering a portion of this year's grant funding to be used to sponsor up to ten local bilingual professionals or community members in Lowell Community Health Center's Bridging the Gap Professional Medical Interpreter Training, scheduled to take place in February.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- CXS Rail
- National Park Service
- Lowell Litter Krew
- Clean River Project
- Canal Cleaner
- MVRTA
- Heritage State Park
- Lowell Housing Authority
- Lowell Public Schools
- Lowell City Council
- Lowell Public Works
- Salvation Army
- Life Connection Center
- Mass Hire Youth Program
- UMass Lowell
- Trinity E.M.S.
- Middlesex County Superior Court
 - Mass DOT
 - Office of the City Manager
 - Lowell CO-OP
 - Lowell Street Department
 - Lowell Police Department
 - Lowell Parks Department

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
- Union Street

Syringe Collection Activity 2022

Total Number of...	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec (1-22)	Total
Discarded pick-up requests	4	8	23	19	18	9	34	36	11	15	18	11	206
Incoming calls for pick-up requests	12	12	32	28	22	11	20	31	16	28	2	6	220
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	50	60	402	277	332	185	310	391	151	378	42	173	2,751
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	0	244	105	95	84	35	18	0	0	0	581
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	502	457	743	1128	909	670	1,252	1,694	1,330	1289	1,134	1,074	12,182
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	48	51	74	70	49	32	78	68	66	77	55	37	705

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – **Overview**
Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor
Lowell CO-OP Data: 2021 and 2022 Comparison

--	November 2021	November 2022	2021 Total	2022 Total
Total Encounters	208	204	2,347	1903
Unique Encounters	121	146	1187	1238
Initial Interaction	38	55	346	400
OD Follow-Up	21	47	134	198
Section 35	2	0	35	10
Clinical Clients	91	76	771	804
Disseminate Narcan	18	24	780	383
SUD Treatment	27	21	294	343
Medical Treatment	2	15	100	162
Other Services	0	0	131	60
Misc. Outreach	115	35	1,499	888

Additional

- This month Maricia has refined data collection processes for the Lowell CO-OP’s follow-up on reported overdoses (OD Follow-Up), and helping Lowell House’s Outreach team establish data collection for the Lowell *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Support Initiative* grant.
- 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) – **Youth Services**
Rhiannon Archambault, Youth Outreach Specialist

Youth Services Data

--	November 2021	November 2022	2021 Total	2022 Total
Youth Services Sessions	11	37	447	485
Engaged Youth Services Clients	7	15	147	127
SUD Treatment and Recovery Coordination	14	6	131	97
Healthcare Coordination	1	26	105	263
Housing Coordination	9	18	103	213

Youth Outreach Specialist (YOS) Update

Rhiannon continues her day-to-day role as the YOS by connecting clients to support services, which is an essential need as the year comes to an end and the weather continues to get colder. Having access to proper support, clothing, food, and medical care is necessary to maintain the health and well-being of those who are chronically homeless and frequently exposed to harsh weather. In addition, Rhiannon hopes to increase her presence within local schools and community-based programs in order to facilitate more developmentally appropriate presentations on substance use and stigma in the Greater Lowell area.

Client Interaction

Rhiannon was contacted by a collaborating partner regarding a client seeking assistance in acquiring a new copy of their birth certificate from out of state. To obtain a certified Puerto Rican birth certificate the applicant in question is required to provide proof of their identity with a valid, non-expired, government-issued photo ID. Unfortunately, this client had lost their ID some time before this encounter. The only “copy” in the client’s possession was photograph of this ID on their phone. After a closer look Rhiannon and the client discovered that the ID was still valid. Rhiannon later sat down with this client and ordered a replacement ID for them, which the client successfully received in the mail soon after. Rhiannon and the client set up a second meeting to order a new copy of their birth certificate from out of state via VitalChek. This order was approved, and will be shipped directly to the client in the near future. As a result of this success, the client will be able to transfer their ID to a new state, apply for additional services and programs, and access more housing and employment opportunities.

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 (Director of Outreach, Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery).

Lowell CO-OP Clinical Data: 2021 and 2022 Comparison

--	November 2021	November 2022	Total 2021	Total 2022
Clinical Sessions	172	108	1,671	1,301
Clinical Clients	91	72	775	800
Initial Interaction	22	20	178	210
Medical Treatment	31	22	280	261
Transportation	24	18	150	259
Housing	97	31	690	527
Financial	110	62	809	803
DCF	10	2	43	29
Other	59	15	408	264

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 had first interaction with a male client in November of 2021. Joseph navigated client to detox program. Throughout this past year Joseph has assisted this particular client with housing assistance through Community Teamwork, Inc., the Department of Transitional Assistance, as well as continued recovery based discussions. Throughout the year the client struggled with his sobriety and Joseph assisted him into several more dual diagnosis programs and level three detoxes. Joseph and the CO-OP team have assisted with client's ongoing legal and mental health issues. Client has had brief periods of recovery, however continues to relapse on a semi-regular basis. Client continues to work with client on a daily basis. Client is in contemplation stage of recovery at this point in time.

ADDITIONAL

Joseph began collaborating with Isabell Ruiz De Luzuriga, LCSW, PATH Team Lead Merrimack Valley Eliot Community Human Services, services to assist clients seeking mental health services.

Report organized by Gisela Yeboah – Epidemiologist