

Board of Health Report: July

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator

Devon Goldberg, MPH

In the aftermath of the cyber-related incident, Devon performed work duties at the CO-OP office to access the hotspot, albeit unstable access. There were in-person SADP division meetings on May 5 and May 18. In June, Devon sent out emails to SAPD members with updates on 6/13 and 6/22. Devon held a Lowell CO-OP supervisor meeting on 5/27, with 7 attendees. Devon had supervision meetings with Mitzy, Devin, and Maricia in May and held supervision with them, in addition to Andres on 6/14.

Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day was held on May 9 and June 21st. 22-25 participants for each event. On May 9, 25 people attended and collected 85lbs of sharps and 32lbs of medication. On June 21st, 25 lbs of med and 50lbs of sharps. A mid-year report was sent to Assistant director of CASE to share on City socials. B&D came on June 21st to pick up hazardous waste from both events. We are working to schedule another event in August or September.

The Lowell Health Department's Community Naloxone Purchasing Program Application was approved on May 30th and we can now order market rate Naloxone (currently \$44.81) and report number of doses distributed, number of people trained and # of overdose reversals reported back to the program (if applicable) annually through RedCap. Devon will attend monthly office hours with DPH to connect with other CNPP participants starting in July.

Held an interview for master's level intern on 6/23. They would work on Opioid Settlement Funding and other various SAPD goals over the course of the year.

Community Engagement:

- Went to Eleanor Health on 5/9 to connect with their providers and Cleanslate providers
- Met with Director of Business Development from Lawrence Medical Center on 5/24
- Spoke with Life Connections on 5/22 about their program and collaboration opportunities.
- Devon met with Lowell Police Department on 5/23 to discuss COSSAP How-to Manual, specifics for writing about grant documentation, and how collaborating agencies fiscally contributed. Was recommended to speak with UML and LHOT about fiscal for the report due in September.
- Attended networking/workshop event at UML on May 23 for all SUD/MH/Housing providers in the Merrimack Valley. Spoke with Public Health professors about having an Opioid Settlement Funding Needs Assessment/Asset mapping as a class project, starting next spring
- Attended District Attorney's Opioid Task Force Meeting in May and June

Professional Development:

- Attended Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting 2023 in Washington DC.
- Attended a 6-hour training on SAMHSA CFR Part 2 vs HIPAA through Webinar Health
- Attended Montana Institute on 5/20-5/22
- Attended Emerging best practices: Substance use and intersectionality's in Quincy, MA on 6/12. Shared out presentations with facts on Sex trafficking.
- Attended HRiA's Sustainable Coalition Training on 6/28 virtually

Drug Free Greater Lowell User Report

2023 Drug Free Greater Lowell Website Analytics

Met with Brian Bahai on 4/6 and had the community calendar widget installed, DrugFreeGreaterLowell meeting where community partner, Maria Ruggiero, suggested that FrontLine Initiative/Tewksbury take over the website (primarily payment/coordination).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total Page Views	424	487	527	582	453	482	--	--	--	--	--	--
Visitor	270	254	247	251	243	191	--	--	--	--	--	--
Views Per Visitor	1.57	1.92	2.13	2.32	--	--						

* Views per visitor is sent via Google Analytics, which is being set up

SAMHSA's FR-CARA:

- Once the 1199A (Direct Deposit Form) was accepted by PMS on 6/6, we have been able to catch up on invoices from Trinity
 - o UML Contract needs to be returned
 - o Lowell House invoices in 2023 have included some items not originally set up for in MUNIS/their contract. They also lost their Spanish Speaking Harm Reduction Navigator in May, which significantly impacts this grant.
- Spoke with SAMHSA TA on 4/7. Submitted report out form with updates and questions on 6/1, 6/15 and 6/22. Spoke with SAMHSA TA on 6/26.
- Spoke with GPO on 6/28, where we learned that the *Year 1 budget must be resubmitted*, then Year 2 Budget Narrative will need to be resubmitted before September, to ensure our application for continued funding can be reviewed
- *Need to order Naloxone through CNPP*
- Met with SAMHSA Director of Data Reporting for CSAP on 6/29 for SPARS clarity
- *Quarter 3 report due 7/31 on SPARS*
- Submitted Midyear Report on eRA Commons on 6/6.
- Purchased nursing supplies
- CARS Advisory Board meetings on 5/25 and 6/29. Devon taking minutes, creating presentations and agendas

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

Devin Gilmore, Substance Use Prevention Grant Coordinator

Grant Updates

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

Strategic Planning

This spring, Devin presented assessment findings to community members throughout Lowell. Of the participants who attended these Strategic Planning Sessions, forty-two submitted their scores to be used in calculating the three intervening variables to prioritize in our MassCALL3 Strategic Plan. The following three variables were found to be considered the most important to address and the most changeable within the scope of the grant:

1. Mental Health
2. Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Antisocial Behaviors
3. Social Norms Related to Youth Substance Misuse

Outreach and Education

On July 17th and 18th, Devin presented a workshop titled “Youth Leaders Helping Friends & Family Struggling with Substance Use” to approximately 150 participants aged 10-14 at the Lowell Youth Leadership Program – a three-week summer program hosted at Greater Lowell Technical High School. The workshop reviewed the relationship between drugs, alcohol, and our brain’s reward system, the impact of substances on the developing brain, as well as how to recognize and respond to family or friends who are misusing substances.

Professional Development

Devin attended three sessions hosted by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services in partnership with the Education Development Center on *Prioritizing Intervening Variables, Selecting Strategies, and Developing Your Logic Model* on June 29, July 6th, and July 19th. This discussion series is devoted to assisting MassCALL3 grantees across Massachusetts in their strategic planning process.

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

Mitzy Mauricio, SOR-PEC Grant Coordinator

Grant Updates:

Mitzy Mauricio is working on the first deliverable of the Lowell SOR-PEC Strategic Plan (SPP). This first deliverable will report on the grant's assessment and capacity building.

Strategic Planning:

- Mitzy attended the Lowell Early Childhood Advisory Council (LECC) meeting on June 5th, 2023. The council meets on the first Monday of every month. This was the last meeting the council met this fiscal year and will have their first meeting of the 2023-2024 fiscal year in September.

Outreach:

- Mitzy has been working with Laura Valdez from the ParentChild+ program at Lowell Public Schools. The health department will be able to sponsor \$30,000 to the program through books and toys that will be distributed to families.
- On May 18th, 2023 Mitzy met with partners from the community and Lowell Public Schools for an advisory board with the goal of increasing access to preschool for families.
- On June 13, 2023 Mitzy attended the quarterly advisory meeting for Healthy Families Lowell. This program is a voluntary and free parenting program for first time parents under the age of 24. Several providers from Greater Lowell were present.
- On June 15, 2023 Mitzy met with partners from the community and Lowell Public Schools for an advisory board with the goal of increasing access to preschool for families. This was the last meeting of the fiscal year. The group will meet once again beginning in September.

Professional Development:

- On May 22nd-May 24th, Mitzy completed training for Youth Mental Health First Aid. She is now a certified instructor and is able to teach the course in Lowell.
- Mitzy attended the Annual Society for Prevention Research conference in Washington D.C on May 30th – June 2nd. She was able to learn more about substance use prevention with Devon Goldberg and Devin Gilmore from the Health Department.
- On June 6th, Mitzy attended the Adcare Summer School's 54th Annual New England School of Addiction and Prevention Studies. She took a course on Substance Use Prevention Core Competencies.
- On June 20th - June 23rd, Mitzy attended the virtual Montana Summer Institute which focuses on the HOPE (Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences) framework.
- On June 29th-June 30th, Mitzy participated in a training with REI's (Racial Equity Institute) Phase 1 training.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – Overview

Maricia Verma, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor

Lowell CO-OP Data: 2022 and 2023 Comparison

	<u>June 2022</u>	<u>June 2023</u>	<u>Total 2022</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
Total Encounters	152	168	2119	1216
Unique Encounters	101	122	1380	871
Initial Interaction	29	42	448	376
OD Follow-Up	4	29	244	341
Section 35	0	0	11	9
Clinical Clients	82	82	880	489
Disseminate Narcan	1	9	402	244
SUD Treatment	30	31	352	180
Medical Treatment	8	15	185	80
Other Services	17	0	60	0
Misc. Outreach	0	37	898	234

Relationship Building and Partner Collaboration

On June 1st, 2023 Maricia met with Isabelle Ruiz de Luzuriaga, LCSW, North East PATH Team Lead, Merrimack Valley, Elliot Community Human Services Inc., to discuss collaboration regarding mutual clients with especially complex cases. These cases may include substance use, mental and physical health concerns.

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

Lowell CO-OP Clinical Data: 2021 and 2022 Comparison

--	June 2022	June 2023	Total 2022	Total 2023
Clinical Sessions	115	108	1,395	670
Clinical Clients	82	82	866	489
Initial Interaction	23	21	229	124
Medical Treatment	16	8	271	106
Transportation	29	35	268	229
Housing	54	11	557	199
Financial	81	39	870	409
DCF	4	3	31	22
Other	17	18	279	127

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 homeless woman and her 4 year old child in a domestic violence situation in June of 2022. Joseph was able to assist placing the family in emergency shelter in Central Massachusetts with the help of Community Teamwork Inc. The client contacted Joseph in June of 2023 upon release from the hospital after a prolonged illness. Client stated that the shelter had given away her emergency housing while she was hospitalized. Due the end of the COVID-19 Emergency, Community Teamwork Inc. program rules change and the organization was unable to assist the woman and her children obtain housing. Joseph placed client in touch with Eliot Church, and the Church was able to temporarily house the mother and her child in a local hotel, until the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) could be contacted. DHCD family housing is only once a week, Thursdays in Lowell. Once the client was able to meet with DHCD case management for new shelter, the client was successfully housed with child for second time.

Additional

Joseph was asked by Lowell Transitional Living Center to train staff on securing detox beds and case management issues. Joseph has coordinated with staff to train them at CO-OP office. Joseph also has been training Outreach worker from Thrive organization.

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

Youth Services Data

--	June 2022	June 2023	2022 Total	2023 Total
Youth Services Sessions	50	41	503	201
Engaged Youth Services Clients	13	12	133	56
SUD Treatment and Recovery Coordination	8	4	99	24
Healthcare Coordination	21	36	271	146
Housing Coordination	21	22	219	83

Youth Outreach Specialist (YOS) Update

Many individuals, whether they are housed, housing insecure, or homeless, have difficulties in finding accurate and updated information regarding services that may help to meet their needs such as: food, clothing, documentation, financial housing, and treatment (acute detox, CSS/TSS, medicated assisted treatment, behavioral health). Through working with clients and collaboration with community providers Rhiannon has been compiling current resources to assist those individuals in meeting their basic needs. Rhiannon's goal in collecting this information is to better and more quickly connect individual to services, and to finalize an up-to-date Lowell CO-OP Resource Manual.

Additionally, Rhiannon recently compiled an updated list of active inpatient Acute Treatment Services as part of the ongoing Lowell CO-OP Resource manual. The overall intent of this specific list is to verify contact information and accepted health insurance plans for treatment facilities as a way to streamline the intake process for individuals seeking treatment, as well as including any specific requirements from those facilities. For example, many facilities in Massachusetts accept all MassHealth (the state insurance program) plans, but some restrict which individual MassHealth plans they will take. Still other facilities will only accept dual-diagnosis patients. Having this information compiled in one place is a huge benefit when the team is trying to place individuals as soon as possible.