

## **Board of Health Report – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

*\*Please be advised that the content of this report is from the 12/01/2019 through 12/12/2019.\**

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

*Lainnie Emond, LMHC*

### ***Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:***

- Continuing to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor’s Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies to participate.
  - *Recent and Upcoming Meetings: No December meeting. January 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm (location TBD).*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members are working on the fifth “Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA” report, which focuses on HIV and opioid overdose in Lowell.
- Continuing to co-lead Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee also finalized two social media images: one highlights that Narcan freezes, and the other highlights that more nonfatal overdoses occur indoors during the winter weather months.
- Continuing to working to identify a specific documentation system to demonstrate how the Substance Abuse Coordinator (SAC) position and the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division have impacted the Lowell Health Department and provider community. This information is important to incorporate into grant reporting as the SAC position has positively expanded beyond the expectations written into the grant.

### ***Lowell CO-OP and Related 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.

### ***Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:***

- Managing daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.
- Lainnie is the point person for [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org). Marketing materials have been designed and are being distributed to partners in Greater Lowell, which include an email signature, social medial images, 11x18 foam boards, business cards, and pens.
- Lainnie is continuing to work with colleagues from Tufts University and Trinity EMS to work on a scientific research paper examining how EMS interacts with patients prior to experiencing a fatal overdose.
- The Substance Abuse and Prevention Division created a position, “Community Outreach Educator”, specifically for Mass Hire/Lowell Career Center’s Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant to enhance the outreach efforts of the Division. Linda Bellantoni started on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

*\*\* Lainnie Emond will oversee the MOAPC Grant through the end of the grant cycle, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. \*\**

**Strategy One (implement Life Skills Training across the cluster):** Life Skills Training is an evidenced based prevention curriculum supported by the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services.

- No updates at this time.

**Grant Strategy Two (coordination and promotion of education on harm reduction strategies):**

- Several organizations within the MOAPC cluster offer Narcan training and Narcan kits.
- Discussed the desire to identify if there are trends in overdoses across town borders (ie. if there is an overdose spike in one town, will there be a similar spike in another town on the same day or possibly the days following?). Lainnie created an Excel document that tracks fatal and nonfatal overdoses per day for the years 2016-2019. Point people in the Greater Lowell MOAPC Cluster towns have been provided with this document and were offered the opportunity to add their tracking numbers for fatal and nonfatal overdoses.

**Drug Free Greater Lowell Website**

- [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org) is live. The MOAPC grant funded informational business cards and other outreach materials to promote the website.
- Analytics will be available upon the close of the calendar year to provide a year-end summary.
- The MOAPC grant funded Drug Free Greater Lowell marketing and outreach materials for the second annual Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium that was held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Westford Regency. Lainnie and Kate Elkins, Lowell Health Department’s Community Health Coordinator, held a table at the Symposium to highlight the website further and to educate attendees on the Lowell Health Department’s prevention efforts.

**Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal**

- The Lowell Health Department held the final Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal of the 2019 calendar year on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Totaling up all **2019 Disposal Days**, participants disposed of **470 pounds of unwanted medications** and **719 pounds of unwanted sharps**.

**Unwanted Medication and Disposal Day Data Collection – 2019 Data**

Event Date	Medication (lbs)	Sharps (lbs)	Total Attendees
3/13/2019	255	317	162
6/11/2019	54	196	76
6/15/2019	18	25	<i>Closed Collection for School Nurses</i>
8/13/2019	85	111	67
12/03/2019*	58	70	38

*\*Please note that there was a snow storm the morning of 12/03/2019.*

## Partnerships for Success (PFS)

*\*\* Lainnie Emond will act as interim coordinator of the PFS grant until the position is filled. \*\**

***Strategy One (social media and education dissemination to high school-aged youth re: sharing prescription medications):***

### **PFS Social Media Campaign:**

- Social media campaign has been placed on hold until a new PFS Coordinator is hired.

***Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):***

### **“Help Keep Our Kids Safe” Campaign**

-Community Health Educator, Kate Elkins, is continuing efforts to create a two-sided handout giving tips on the proper storage of prescription medication as well as identifying medication disposal sites in Lowell. This handout will be distributed to the general public with a specific focus on parents/caregivers of local youth.

### ***Monthly Meeting:***

Monthly coalition meeting is scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### ***Outreach Health Educator Position:***

Position was posted from October 25<sup>th</sup> through November 8<sup>th</sup>. First round interviews occurred the week of November 18<sup>th</sup>, and second round interviews were held the week of December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

**Lowell CO-OP Data 2019**

--	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Total Encounters</b>	78	76	32	47	88	58	41	48	74	33	41	--	<b>616</b>
<b>Unique Encounters</b>	--	37	28	29	52	34	28	36	53	16	34	--	<b>347</b>
<b>Initial Interaction</b>	--	9	6	9	17	3	7	13	12	2	15	--	<b>93</b>
<b>OD Follow-Up</b>	2	8	9	11	17	3	6	9	29	4	10	--	<b>108</b>
<b>Section 35</b>	2	1	0	1	5	1	1	2	2	0	5	--	<b>20</b>
<b>Clinical Clients</b>	7	7	5	4	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	--	<b>38</b>
<b>Disseminate Narcan</b>	0	0	3	6	13	4	20	5	25	5	37	--	<b>118</b>
<b>SUD Treatment</b>	11	15	14	12	14	14	18	14	22	11	8	--	<b>153</b>
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	0	1	0	5	3	4	4	5	4	1	1	--	<b>28</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	7	1	2	8	4	8	3	2	11	1	0	--	<b>47</b>
<b>Misc. Outreach</b>	--	--	--	--	--	156	223	464	71	72	132	--	<b>1118</b>

**Outreach and Educational Events**

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
11-20-2019	Educational Presentation	Robinson Middle School	Mental Health, Substance Abuse	25

**Relationship Building**

Date	Organization	Relationship Building
11-15-19	CTI	CO-OP Supervisor attended CTI's Youth Provider Meeting.

**Additional**

- The Clinical Recovery Specialist position was reposted on 11/21 and will remain open until 12/16.
- Lowell CO-OP Supervisor and Lowell CO-OP team members attended the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium on 12/6 at the Westford Regency.

Syringe Collection Program  
*Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator (SCPC)*

***City Department and Community Partner Engagement:***

- Middlesex Community College
- Lowell Community Health Center
- Lowell Charter School
- Office of the City Manager
- Lowell CO-OP
- Department of Planning & Development
- Lowell Street Department
- Lowell Police Department
- Lowell Parks Department

***Community Events Attended:***

- 12/3 Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day
- 12/4 Hunger Homeless Commission (HHC)
- 12/6 Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium

***Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:***

- Hunts Falls Bridge
- Suffolk Streer Bridge
- Howe Street (Middlesex College)
- Morey School
- George Street
- Favor Street
- Lowell Justice Center
- Rogers Street Bridge
- Rogers Stem Academy
- South Common Park

**Syringe Collection Activity 2019**

<b>Total Number Of...</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Discarded syringe pick-up requests	8	6	8	21	22	35	38	22	---	164
Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests	6	21	20	17	14	14	14	11	---	121
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded syringe pick-up requests	49	240	334	256	157	337	322	113	---	1,830
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community	9	20	25	29	41	49	35	44	---	258
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	493	967	488	1231	895	1040	845	896	---	6,999
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	11	75	49	16	131	161	0	---	433

*\*Please note that there was a snow storm on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> that resulted in no incoming pick-up requests and no proactive pick-ups.*