

## **Board of Health Report – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

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: March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm.*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force.
- Continuing to co-lead Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee is creating a short provider message for the LGH medical provider monthly email and an educational social media image that highlights key points from the Data Subcommittee's HIV Opioid Trends Report.
- Continuing to work the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell grant partners to document the progress of the grant for the final report, as the PDMP grant ends in September 2020.

### ***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:***

- Continuing to managing daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.
- Continuing to be the point person for [www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org](http://www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org).
- 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 role of Community Outreach Educator, via MassHire's Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant, is temporarily vacant.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

**\*\* Lainnie Emond will oversee the MOAPC Grant through the end of the grant cycle. \*\***

**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.

**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.

**2020 Website Analytics**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Total page Views</b>	645	497	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Unique Page Views</b>	496	362	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal**

- The Lowell Health Department, in partnership with the Lowell Police Department, held its first Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal day on March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- During the 2019 Disposal Day events, 470 pounds of unwanted medication and 719 pounds of unwanted sharps were collected.

**Unwanted Medications & Sharps Disposal Day 2020**

Event Date	Medication (lbs)	Sharps (lbs)	Total Attendees
3/10/2020	245	359	147
6/16/2020	--	--	--
9/22/2020	--	--	--
12/8/2020	--	--	--
<b>TOTAL</b>	245	359	147

**Grant Update**

- It was announced by BSAS on March 4<sup>th</sup> that the MOAPC grant will be extended through September 2020. Additional funds will be provided to cover the three month grant extension.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)  
*Shannon Gray, Outreach Health Educator*

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

**PFS Social Media Campaign:**

Shannon has been working to familiarize herself with the Social Media Campaign ideas. A work plan to create, disseminate, and evaluate the Social Media Campaign will be created within the next month.

***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**

The two-sided parent flier has been designed and content is being finalized by the Substance Abuse Coordinator and Community Health Coordinator at the Health Department. Our goal is to have the flier finalized, printed, and ready to distribute to the public by the end of March.

***Monthly Meeting:***

The March 25<sup>th</sup> Partnerships For Success Coalition meeting has been rescheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1-2pm at the Lowell Health Department.

***Outreach Health Educator Position:***

Shannon started as the new Outreach Health Educator on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Shannon has spent her first 3 weeks on the job learning the various aspects of this position and getting to know the Partnerships For Success Coalition members. In addition, Shannon has met with the BSAS Partnerships For Success grant contract manager and technical assistance liaison.

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

**Lowell CO-OP Data**

--	Feb 2019	Feb 2020	2019 Total	2020 Total
<b>Total Encounters</b>	76	45	667	101
<b>Unique Encounters</b>	37	35	378	59
<b>Initial Interaction</b>	9	5	100	21
<b>OD Follow-Up</b>	8	2	116	10
<b>Section 35</b>	1	1	20	3
<b>Clinical Clients</b>	7	2	40	4
<b>Disseminate Narcan</b>	0	3	141	11
<b>SUD Treatment</b>	15	7	158	10
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	1	0	33	3
<b>Other Services</b>	1	3	47	13
<b>Misc. Outreach</b>	--	20	1581	43

**Outreach and Educational Events**

- Due to COVID-19 concerns, outreach and educational events were postponed.

**Relationship Building**

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Additional**

- Joseph (Joe) Aniello started in the position of Clinical Recovery Specialist on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the next Board of Health Report, Joe will provide a report that delves into the clinical work being completed by the Lowell CO-OP.
- The creation of the Youth Outreach Specialist position, via the Lowell Police Department’s new Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program grant, was unanimously approved by the City Council on February 25<sup>th</sup>. This position will work with youth who have been impacted by the opioid epidemic. The Youth Outreach Specialist will be a Health Department employee and a member of the Lowell CO-OP. The job description was posted on the City website March 4<sup>th</sup> through March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Syringe Collection Program  
*Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator*

**City Department and Community Partner Engagement:**

- Lowell Heritage State Park
  - UMass Lowell
  - Lowell Senior Center
  - Public Safety Research and Planning
  - Lowell Transitional Living Center
  - Trinity E.M.S.
  - Middlesex County Superior Court
  - Lowell Engineering Division
- Mass DOT
  - Office of the City Manager
  - Lowell CO-OP
  - Department of Planning & Development
  - Lowell Street Department
  - Lowell Police Department
  - Lowell Parks Department

**Community Events Attended:**

- 2/18 Lowell Kids Week- Family Festival (Outreach)
- 2/26 Community Resource Fair Shaughnessy Elementary (Outreach)
- 3/10 Unwanted Medication & Sharps Disposal Day

**Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:**

- 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 2019 and 2020**

Total Number of...	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar (1 <sup>st</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> )	Total
Discarded pick-up requests*	8	6	8	21	22	35	38	22	8	20	24	18	<b>215</b>
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	6	22	21	17	14	14	14	11	7	18	9	7	<b>165</b>
Syringes picked-up while responding to <b>all</b> discarded pick-up requests	49	240	334	265	157	337	322	113	22	375	135	543	<b>2,874</b>
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	11	75	49	16	131	161	0	0	0	0	0	<b>433</b>
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	493	967	488	1231	895	1040	845	896	635	1125	774	593	<b>9,982</b>
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	9	20	25	29	41	49	35	44	27	50	44	32.5	<b>405.5</b>

\*Discarded syringe pick-up request from City Employees (ie. police, fire) and Trinity EMS.

\*\*Discarded syringe pick-up request from Lowell residents.