

Board of Health Meeting – September 5th, 2018

Division of Substance Abuse and Prevention
Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator
Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with the Chair of the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify and contact presenters, and invite new agencies.
 - *Recent/Upcoming Meetings: 8/27, 9/24 5:30-6:30pm in Mayor's Reception Room within City Hall*
- Hosted Data Subcommittee meetings for the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force on 7/31 and 8/11. Continuing to identify data sources within the agencies at the table. Working to overlap datasets from various agencies by zip code and neighborhood, as a means to comply with HIPAA, to identify areas of need in regards to substance abuse services and outreach. Planning to present first set of overlapped data at the September Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force.
 - *Next meeting is scheduled for 9/12 from 1:30-2:30pm, location TBD*
- Partnering with LPD and UML partners on the PDMP grant to begin creating a "Death Database", with which a retroactive study of fatal opioid overdose victims will be completed; we plan to analyze victims' encounters with first responders, medical services, and other professionals to see where opportunities for harm reduction and education may have been missed as an effort to identify new opportunities for client engagement. Names and basic information of victims from 2016 have been collected via death records, and fatal overdose victim information will also be collected for 2015. Currently, we are using 10 randomly selected victims as a sample to investigate what information is realistic for us to collect; keeping HIPAA and information sharing policies in mind, LPD is reviewing Board of Probation records, UML is utilizing internet searches and social media, and LHD is working with Trinity EMS records (Trinity can share information with LHD as we are the Public Health entity in Lowell).

Other:

- MOAPC intern has been working with the Substance Abuse Coordinator on an "Overdose Tracking" specific to Lowell. The tracking consists of daily nonfatal overdose number from of Trinity EMS, weather (daily high and low), crime as reported via "CrimeMapping.com", crime as reported by local news sources, program closings, and other events taking place in the city such as house fires, festivals, fatal accidents.

Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) Grant Involvement:

- Met with SPI grant partners on 8/1 to continue to clarify SPI grant and CO-OP related questions, such as streamlining deliverables and follow-up procedures, and defining client categories.
 - From this meeting, Substance Abuse Coordinator created a CO-OP role/responsibility organizational schema that maps out the client follow-up and engagement process.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Michael Hall M.Ed.

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.

As of June 2018, every town in our cluster has had Life Skills Training provided to school and support staff, except for Chelmsford who declined to participate. We have also brought in other community youth groups for either full certification training or exposure to material specific to their model. Thus far:

- Lowell has had training for elementary and middle school teachers. Over 1,000 student materials were provided for implementation.
- Billerica has had elementary, middle, and high school level trainings. Trainings have included teachers, counselors, and student resource officers.
- Westford has teachers trained at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The plan is for a full roll out in all grades in September 2018.
- Wilmington religious education class leaders were trained in elementary and middle school levels and implemented during last year's classes. They will resume with the 2018 religious education classes.
- Tewksbury has trained in elementary and middle school levels. I will be meeting with school administration to assist in coordinating implementation for the 2018 school year.
- Dracut implemented with 400 middle school students last school year. Additionally, high school level training was provided to essential staff. I will be meeting with school administration on 8/23/18 to coordinate a larger scale implementation for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Tyngsboro has had elementary and high school level trainings. I will be conducting middle school training in September 2018. They will be implementing across all grades in fall of 2018.
- Additionally, I have spent the summer training mental health peer mentors with the Nan Project (Elliot Community Services) in high school transitions level Life Skills Training. The goal of this work is to have these peer mentors integrate into Lowell and other cluster town's schools systems as a teen mental health, suicide, and substance use awareness resource. In coordination with existing school support personnel, the Nan project, at no cost to the school system, provides peer lead counseling and support for students experiencing emotional adversity during adolescence. The peer support counselors now have exposure and experience with the Life Skills Training material to include in their language and skills set adding a dimension of substance use awareness to their overall offerings.

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

The following coordination and promotion of harm reduction activities have been engaged in by MOAPC cluster members and organizations with the cluster towns.

- Substance abuse educational session with youth at Teen Block (LCHC)
- Grandparents as Parents monthly support group
- Narcan training of high risk clients and family members

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

Lainnie Emond is currently acting as interim PFS Coordinator until position is filled.

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

- Lowell High School: Interim PFS Coordinator has continued to meet with Dave Robinson, Coordinator of Student Support Services at Lowell High School, to discuss how PFS can have more of a presence at the school, as well as engage more with students and parents. Discussions included PFS having a table or presenting at pre-season athletic meetings, parent-teacher conferences, in-door sporting events (ie. having a table near an entrance); discussions also included engaging the PFS youth group in peer education on misuse of prescription drugs.
- Community Teamwork Inc., (CTI) – Youth Build: Select PFS members will present to Youth Build youth on the topics of Narcan Training and Harm Reduction, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Local Resources, How Drugs Effect the Body, and Mental Health and Substance Abuse. These presentations will occur on four separate days. Scheduling for these presentations is currently being worked out by PFS member Lauren Keisling and Youth Build.

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

- No updates at this time.

Monthly Meeting:

- 8/15/18
 - Identified that although a full-time PFS Coordinator has yet to be hired, the collation will continue as planned to start a student group. The student group will help to create a social marketing campaign and disseminate information regarding this misuse of prescription drugs to peers, as well as be offered the opportunity to attending youth-focused MIAA trainings during the 2018-2109 school year,

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

Lowell CO-OP transitioned from a police-lead initiative to a public health-lead initiative in January 2018. Lainnie Emond was overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Lowell CO-OP until full-time Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, Maricia Verma, was hired with a start date of 7-17-18.

Educational Opportunities and Trainings:

- 7/24 CO-OP and Supervisor attended the CDC EPI Aid Investigation re: substantial increase in HIV rate in Lowell and Lawrence (CO-OP was interviewed during the investigation).

Relationship Building

- 8/24 CO-OP will present at DCF Staff Training per request of DCF to learn more about the CO-OP and build a relationship. CO-OP will present on Opioid Crisis, signs and symptoms of use, Narcan demonstration, and local resources for DCF.
- 8/28 CO-OP and Supervisor will present at the Mayor's Opioid Task Force per request of the Task Force Co-Chairman to introduce new CO-OP members and provide insight into trends that they are seeing while doing outreach work.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant:

- 8/13 UMass Lowell grant researcher partners met with CO-OP to discuss data collection; CO-OP contributed ideas for additional questions for their encounter form.

Meetings:

- 7/31, 8/28 CO-OP Supervisors Meeting
- 7/31, 8/22 CO-OP Meeting
- 8/14, 8/23 Candidate interviews for Trinity EMT CO-OP position
 - Candidate recommendation will be made no later than Friday 8/24

Other:

- LFD EMS has been providing water bottles for the CO-OP to distribute to clients while doing outreach work. Due to the high temperatures the CO-Op has been distributing a large amount of water.
- CO-OP has had reports from clients that methamphetamine is in Lowell; CO-OP members have reported seeing known opioid using clients displaying symptoms in line with amphetamine use.

Clinical Recovery Specialist Active Client Caseload Summary:

- Active Clients: 11

First Responder Client Outreach Summary:

- Outreached Clients: 26 (as of 7/30 when a new tracking system was implemented)
- 8/10 Officer Sheryl Mercier administered naloxone to an overdose victim who was unresponsive outside of the CO-OP office; 911 was called.
- Overall increase in CO-OP distribution of bottled water and bandages.