

Board of Health Meeting – May 8th, 2019

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.
 - *Next Meetings: April 29th and May 20th from 5:30-6:30pmin City Hall.*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members have analyzed several sets of data specific to the opioid epidemic in Lowell, and have finalized a report, including a one-page summary, that outlines the observations and recommendations of said data; report will be present at Mayor's Opioid Task Force in April. The next project that the Subcommittee will be working on is to analyze fatal and nonfatal opioid overdoses data in conjunction with weather data (temperature, humidity, rain) specifically for the summer months in 2016, 2017, and 2018 to inquire if there is a correlation in an increase in opioid related overdoses and increased temperature/humidity. Results will be documented in another report and/or short handout.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant and Lowell CO-OP

- Lainnie and Maricia continue to lead monthly CO-OP Supervisors Meeting comprised of OP supervisors, grant management staff, and UML research partners.
- Lainnie, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, and LPD grant partners have been continuing to meet with LGH "Bridge Clinic" grant staff to identify how the CO-OP can best work with the new clinic starting on 4/1. Finalizing two-way consent form for easy client collateral contact between Lowell CO-OP and Bridge Clinic.
- Lowell Health Department's request for two part-time Clinical Recovery Specialist positions to be combined into one full-time position was approved by the City Council. Job description was posted from 4/3 – 4/17. Interviews are tentatively being planned for the end of April/beginning of May.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Lainnie and Kerran are continuing to work with community partners from Tufts, UML, and Trinity EMS on a journal article re: syringe discard in Lowell based off of the work completed during the yearlong, grant-funded SSP and PEERRS program through Life Connection Center.
- Actively planning the Health Department's next Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day. Next Disposal Day is scheduled for June – exact date TBA.
- 4/23 Presented to City Council per Mayor's request on the efforts that the Health Dept. has engaged in regarding prescription medications with seniors. Presentation will be in conjunction with an update from staff from Lowell's new Walgreen's Specialty Pharmacy.
- 4/22 Lainnie and PFS Coordinator met with Diane Knight, Director of the Northeast Tobacco Free Community Partnership, to learn the most up-to-date information re: vaping in Lowell. Diane is available to present, and will also provide the Lowell Health Department with her vaping presentation.

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

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.*

- MOAPC facilitated training being planned with local schools in May 2019. Currently, Westford and Tyngsboro are anticipated to attend.
- Ongoing consultation with teachers and administrators within the Greater Lowell MOAPC Cluster on fidelity and implementation of Life Skills Training.
- On March 29th, presented at a DPH funded and facilitated Life Skills Training at the request of DPH. Lowell MOAPC is identified as the area Life Skills Training resource for teachers and programs looking to implement and sustain Life Skills Training. Several area municipalities, including Lowell, Dracut, and Tewksbury were represented at the training.

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

- Coordinating support with community providers to promote and provide overdose prevention and awareness training and resources to high risk populations. This includes Narcan and opioid overdose awareness training and post overdose follow up visits in several communities
- Continuing to collect opioid overdose data across MOAPC cluster towns to ascertain any relationship between fatal and non-fatal overdose spikes across town borders. Thus far four out of seven towns have reported on data dating back to November 2018. This will provide information to assess past success and indicate future work. Our goal is to have actionable data by June 2019.

Additional activities include:

- Work on the Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention committee website planning group
- We have begun planning for the second Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium scheduled for December 6th, 2019. The planning committee is chaired by MOAPC coordinator.
- Facilitated cluster wide MOAPC meetings on April 16th and May 28th to continue coordinating efforts throughout the cluster towns and Lowell.
- Tri-Chair of Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention task force.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)
Lauren Keisling - Outreach Health Educator

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

Middlesex Community College (MCC) Classroom Education and Wellness Wednesdays:

PFS Coordinator hosted an informational table in the lobby of MCC's main academic building for the Wellness Wednesday event on 4/17, focusing on the opioid epidemic in Lowell, opioid overdose, and proper prescription medication disposal/storage. There were 40 student visitors at the table.

CTI YouthBuild Workshops:

Educational workshops with CTI YouthBuild began on 4/9 and are continuing on a rotating weekly basis until 5/28. Workshops will be presented by various staff from the Lowell Health Department, Lowell Community Health Center, and the NAN Project. Topics include: Substance Use in Lowell, HIV/HCV Transmission, Mental Health and Substance Use, and Overdose Prevention. The Substance Use in Lowell workshops on 4/9 and 4/16 reached unduplicated 32 students.

UMASS Lowell (UML) Straight Talk Series:

PFS Coordinator is conducting the "Straight Talk" discussion-based educational workshop series in collaboration with the UML Wellness Center. The series is running from 4/9 – 4/30 on Tuesday evenings at UML. Each session focuses on a different substance, including opioids, marijuana, stimulants, and benzodiazepines, and students attending the workshop are given the space to ask questions, share stories, and learn more about each substance, their use, and the risks of using these substances alone or mixed together. The 4/9 session on opioids had 4 total attendees, and the 4/16 session on marijuana had 18 total attendees with 14 attendees.

Tewksbury Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC)/PFS Partnership:

PFS Coordinator is collaborating with Maria Ruggerio, SAPC)Program Director, Department to create and launch an "Anti-Mixing" campaign targeted at youth ages 12-25 to raise awareness on the dangers of mixing substances.

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

PFS Coordinator is working on creating/ordering promotional materials displaying "Help Keep Our Kids Safe" messaging to be distributed across the community leading up to the Health Department's upcoming Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day in June.

Monthly Meeting:

Next PFS Meeting is scheduled for 4/24 from 12:30-2:00PM at Lowell High School.

Other:

The PFS Coordinator is working to add education dissemination to college-aged youth on sharing prescription medication to the PFS Logic Model.

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

Relationship Building / Interactions with Local Providers and Collaterals:

- 4/2 HART House is a residential treatment substance use treatment program in Tewksbury for women with children and pregnant women. CO-OP presented on CO-OP services.
- 4/9 CO-OP Supervisor, Maryann Ballotta (LPD, Public Safety and Planning Research Director), and Sheryl Mercier (LPD, CO-OP Police Officer) met with Greater Lowell police and health department staff who engage in post-overdose follow-up. Meeting was focused on building relationships to broaden communication specific to when a resident of one two overdoses in another town.
- 5/1 Middlesex Academy Charter High School. CO-OP will present to a health class about CO-OP services, as well basic education on Substance Use, and local resources.

Meetings:

- 4/9 CO-OP Team Meeting
- 4/11 CO-OP Meeting with grant research partners from UMass Lowell. Focus of meeting was to brainstorm ideas that the CO-OP would like to see incorporated in future CO-OP grant applications.
- 4/30 CO-OP Supervisors Meeting

Client Outreach:

- Gianna Sandelli (Lowell House, Outreach Worker) continued to train and distribute Narcan.

Other:

- CO-OP Supervisor has continued to train the CO-OP members on the use of IntakeQ, the CO-OP's electronic health record.
- LGH Bride Clinic SHIFT grant Bridge Clinic began on 4/1; Lowell CO-OP is a partner on the grant, along with Lowell Community Health Center and Middlesex Recovery.
- Kevin Jones (Lowell Fire Department) and Sheryl Mercier (Lowell Police Department) continue 60 hour Recovery Coach Training. Course to be completed 4/17/2019.
- Kevin Jones is retiring at the end of April. Firefighter Stephen Lyle has been assigned as the CO-OP's new firefighter. Stephen began training with the CO-OP in the beginning of April.

CO-OP Client Engagement Description	December 2018	January 2019	February 2019	March 2019	4/1/19 – 4/11/19
Total Client Encounters	78	95	86	32	11
Clinical Recovery Specialist Active Clients	17	7	7	5	5
Families/clients who inquired information about Section 35 and petitions for Section 35	1	6	1	0	0
Clients CO-OP helped admit to some form of treatment	16	11	15	8	2
CO-OP helped clients with other services	3	2	2	2	0

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

Promotional Materials:

- Completed:
 - SCPC Flier and informational Postcards
 - Educational PowerPoint presentation for school aged-youth
 - Educational handout and information pamphlet for the Syringe Collection Program and proper sharps disposal
- In Progress:
 - Video PSA

Outreach and Building Community Partnerships:

- SCPC has continued to meet with Lowell partners that encounter discarded syringes in the community:
 - City of Lowell: Neighborhood Association Liaison
 - SCPC is working with leaders of the Neighborhood Associations to target specific areas in each neighborhood that need syringe collection services.
 - City of Lowell: Code Enforcement
 - Department of Public Works: Parks Department
 - Lowell Cemetery

Job Preparation:

- SCPC has partnered with the City of Lowell Code Enforcement and Fire Department to visit and evaluate homeless encampments, syringe hotspots, and parks to continue strategic planning of a City wide clean-up.
- SCPC connected with the City of Lowell GIS Internal Mapping staff.

Additional Syringe Collection Program Coordinator Activities:

- SCPC is overseeing the Health Department's Syringe Disposal Kiosk.
- SCPC provided input to help to develop the new procedures for homeless encampment evacuation and site clean-up for the City of Lowell Code Enforcement Division.
- Several students from the Career Academy put together a PSA last year about what to do when you find a discarded syringe in the community. SCPC has met with those students to organize a future partnership in presenting Syringe Safety to other students in the Lowell Public School system.
- SCPC attended DA Ryan's Opioid Task Force in April.

Syringe Collection

- SCPC has been trained and equipped to respond to discarded syringe pick-up requests. The SPC had a "soft" deployment of this service on April 18th, 2019. Full advertisement for the Syringe Collection Program discarded needle pick-up request service will be announced to the community shortly.