

## **Board of Health Report – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 to participate.
  - *Next Meetings: October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm at City Hall, Mayor's Reception Room*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members released a report highlighting the importance of carrying and being trained on how to use Narcan, and who is administering Narcan when responding to nonfatal overdoses. Next topic that the Subcommittee will look into is any specific risk factors that may increase an individual's risk of overdose during the cold weather months.
- Held second Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The group is working to create a social media image, press release, and notes for medical providers regarding the importance of having Narcan and being trained to use Narcan.
- Working to identify a specific documentation system to demonstrate how the Substance Abuse Coordinator (SAC) position has 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.

### ***Smart Policing Initiative Grant and Lowell CO-OP***

- Lainnie, Maricia, and team members of the Lowell CO-OP continue to participate in Homeless Outreach meetings to discuss coordination of care and brainstorm ways to improve the homeless population's access to housing services.

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

- Managing daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.
- The Substance Abuse and Prevention Division engaged in a soft-launch of DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org.
- Hosted a resource table and spoke at the Merrimack Valley International Overdose Day on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The event was held by the nonprofit Heroin Is Killing My Town in Lowell. Resource table was specific to sharps and medication disposal/storage and opioid trends in Lowell.
- Michael Hall, MOAPC Coordinator, is resigning from his position effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. Lainnie will oversee the MOAPC grant through the end of the grant cycle, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Lainnie has been working with Michael during his last two weeks to prep for his exit to ensure that the MOAPC grant and coalition continue to be served as best as possible.

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

**\*\*Michael is resigning from his position effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. 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.

- Met with Bernie McCann (Billerica Public Schools) regarding Life Skills Training. We are planning for a late fall training for new teachers.
- Met with Billerica Public School Health teachers who are currently certified in Life Skills. They now have materials and a plan for implementation across elementary and middle school grades
- Met with Dr. Herr Zaya of the Department of Public Health to coordinate upcoming trainings in our area and the plan for DPH to provide materials to teachers once they are certified.

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

- We have not implemented work on this goal in the last month

***Additional activities include:***

- Active participation in Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention committee. (September 11)
- Facilitated planning meetings for the second Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The planning committee meets weekly and is chaired by MOAPC coordinator.
- Tri- Chair of Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention task force. Meetings held on the first Tuesday of each month. Currently we are working towards developing the next Community Health Improvement Plan objects for Substance Use Prevention. (October 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Began consultations with Shannon S. Bresaw, developer of The Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. We will have our first presentation of the model on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium.
- MOAPC grant funding supported community partners in attending the Cape Cod Substance Addiction Disorder Conference. (September 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>)
- Drugfreegreaterlowell.org website went live (August 31)
- Facilitated the Greater Lowell Recovery month press conference, held in Billerica to announce related recovery and awareness area events through September and October. Presenters included District Attorney Marian Ryan (September 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Attended the quarterly state grantee provider meeting. Received preliminary information regarding the next Bureau of Substance Addiction Services grant cycles. There was no actionable information given. We were informed that actionable grant request information is expected by December 2019. (September 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Facilitated monthly MOAPC coalition (September 17<sup>th</sup>)
- Met with Billerica Public School Health teachers to coordinate upcoming needs in prevention and substance use awareness information as well as mental health supports for students.
- Assisted with Habitat for Humanity as a City of Lowell initiative. (September 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Presenter at the Suicide Prevention and Awareness Annual Breakfast on the topic of the links between suicide and substance use. (September 26<sup>th</sup>)

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):***

**PFS Social Media Campaign:**

- PFS is launching a social media campaign focusing on social norms of prescription medication misuse amongst Lowell high school-aged individuals and providing refusal skill examples. These informational posts will be posted and shared across community partners' social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and will roll out in mid-October. PFS has contracted with a graphic designer to create social media image templates for the campaign.

**UMASS Lowell (UML) Collaboration:**

- PFS Coordinator is actively involved in the UML Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Task Force.  
- PFS Coordinator will conduct the second "Straight Talk" series beginning September 17. These sessions include open discussion about different substances and their use, with the mission of broadening student knowledge on substances to encourage informed decision making.  
- Student Affairs requested prescription medication misuse prevention training for students involved in Greek Life on campus. This training is scheduled to take place the first week of October.

***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 LHD is working to create new, family-oriented messaging to promote the next Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day in December. This messaging will be paired with a "holiday season" theme.  
-PFS Coordinator is working 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.

**Community Outreach:**

-The LHD hosted a table at the Center for Hope and Healing's Annual Family Festival on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Information was disseminated to a diverse family audience about proper prescription medication and sharps disposal in the community.

**Drug Free Greater Lowell (DFGL) Website:**

-The new DFGL website soft launched on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Substance Abuse and Prevention Division is currently working to create promotional materials advertising the website to distribute among community partners and the community at large.

***Monthly Meeting:*** Next meeting is 10/30/19 from 1:00PM-2:00PM at the Lowell Health Department.

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	--	--	--	--	<b>468</b>
<b>Unique Encounters</b>	--	37	28	29	52	34	28	36	--	--	--	--	<b>244</b>
<b>Initial Interaction</b>	--	9	6	9	17	3	7	13	--	--	--	--	<b>64</b>
<b>OD Follow-Up</b>	2	8	9	11	17	3	6	9	--	--	--	--	<b>65</b>
<b>Section 35</b>	2	1	0	1	5	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	<b>13</b>
<b>Clinical Clients</b>	7	7	5	4	3	2	2	2	--	--	--	--	<b>32</b>
<b>Disseminate Narcan</b>	0	0	3	6	13	4	20	5	--	--	--	--	<b>51</b>
<b>SUD Treatment</b>	11	15	14	12	14	14	18	14	--	--	--	--	<b>112</b>
<b>Medical Treatment</b>	0	1	0	5	3	4	4	5	--	--	--	--	<b>22</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	7	1	2	8	4	8	3	2	--	--	--	--	<b>35</b>
<b>Misc. Outreach</b>	--	--	--	--	--	156	223	464	--	--	--	--	<b>843</b>

**Outreach and Educational Events**

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
9-26-19	Outreach Table	Author Event, Pollard Memorial Library	CO-OP Services	Pending
10-7-2019	Educational Presentation	Tewksbury Transitions	CO-OP Services	Pending
10-21-2019	Educational Presentation	Lowell House, Men's Recovery House	CO-OP Services	Pending

**Relationship Building**

Date	Organization	Relationship Building
8-29-19	HART House, Lahey Behavioral Health	CO-OP Supervisor met with Program Director to discuss program needs as a community stakeholder.

**Additional**

- CO-OP Supervisor attended the Lowell Veterans Sub-Committee Meeting on 9-12-2019, Crescent House: 15 Veterans Way, Lowell, to discuss Lowell CO-OP Services.

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

***Outreach, Education and Building Community Partnerships:***

- Partnerships
  - Office of Planning and Development
  - Lowell Police Department
  - Lowell Public Schools
- Education
  - Downtown Neighborhood Association Meeting: Outreach & Education
  - St Patrick School- Staff: Outreach & Education
  - Rogers Stem School: Meeting with Vice Principle
  - Bartlett School: Meeting with Vice Principle
- Community Agencies
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lowell Senior Center</li> <li>○ Lowell Public School</li> <li>○ Downtown Neigh. Association</li> <li>○ Solidarity Lowell</li> <li>○ Life Connections Center</li> <li>○ Lowell Community Health Center</li> <li>○ Healthy Streets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Office of the City Manager</li> <li>○ Lowell CO-OP</li> <li>○ Department of Planning &amp; Development</li> <li>○ Lowell Street Department</li> <li>○ Lowell Police Department</li> <li>○ Lowell Parks Department</li> <li>○ Lowell Housing Authority</li> </ul>
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***Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:***

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|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concord Park</li> <li>• Ventura Park</li> <li>• Point Park</li> <li>• Dutton Street Bridge</li> <li>• Easter Canal Park</li> <li>• Rourke Bridge</li> <li>• Bridge Street Bridge</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doane Street Park</li> <li>• Shattuck Park</li> <li>• Francis Gate Park</li> <li>• Bartlett School</li> <li>• St Patrick School</li> <li>• Rogers Stem School</li> <li>• Hunts Falls Bridge</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N Common Park</li> <li>• S Common Park</li> <li>• River Front Park</li> <li>• La Lachuer Park</li> <li>• Rogers Street Bridge</li> <li>• Jack Kerouac Park</li> </ul> |
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**Syringe Collection Activity 2019**

Total Number Of...	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep 1 <sup>st</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Discarded syringe pick-up requests	8	6	8	21	22	23	---	---	---	83
Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests	6	21	20	17	14	10	---	---	---	85
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded syringe pick-up requests	49	240	334	256	157	253	---	---	---	1238
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community	9	20	25	29	41	34	---	---	---	148
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	304	967	488	1231	895	762	---	---	---	4836
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	11	75	49	16	0	---	---	---	151