

Board of Health Report – October 2nd, 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 28th and November 25th from 5:30-6:30pm. Locations TBA.*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members are finalizing the fourth “Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA” report, which focuses on the specific risk factors of overdose during colder weather.
- Continuing to co-lead Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. The Subcommittee’s next meeting is scheduled for October 30th. The group has provided LGH with condensed notes for providers re: Narcan and the Good Samaritan Law. The group is finalizing a social media image and press release the importance of having Narcan and being trained to use Narcan.
- 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 overseeing the Partnership For Success grant and cluster until a new Outreach Health Educator is hired to fulfil the grant duties; the Partnerships for Success grant ends at the end of September 2020. Lainnie is also overseeing, unless otherwise decided, the MOAPC grant and cluster; the MOAPC grant ends at the end of June 2019.
- Lainnie is the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org for the time being. She is monitoring the website’s email and updating the website’s content, news articles, and fliers.
- Lainnie presented on prevention efforts at Christ Church United in Dracut on October 8th alongside two presenters from Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery who presented on treatment.
- The Substance Abuse and Prevention Division is working with Mass Hire/Lowell Career Center via the Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant to bring aboard an outreach worker to enhance the outreach efforts of the Division. More details to follow.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Lainnie Emond, Substance Abuse Coordinator

****Michael Hall resigned from his position effective October 1st, 2019. As of now, Lainnie Emond will oversee the MOAPC Grant through the end of the grant cycle, June 30th, 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.

- Michael met with point people from Wilmington and Billerica to discuss Life Skills Training (training for teachers and implementation in schools).

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

- MOAPC cluster specifically has not implemented work on this goal in the last month. However, several organizations within the cluster towns offer Narcan training and Narcan kits.

Additional activities include:

- Michael continued to facilitate planning meetings for the second Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium scheduled for December 6th, 2019.
- Michael acted as Tri-Chair of the Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention (SUP) task force.
 - Meetings will continue to be held on the first Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for November 5th. Currently, the SUP task force is working towards developing the next Community Health Improvement Plan objects for SUP section.
- www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org is live. The MOAPC grant funded informational business cards and other outreach materials to promote the website.
- Maria Ruggiero (SAPC Coordinator from the Tewksbury Police Department) and Lainnie Emond facilitated monthly MOAPC coalition on October 15th.
- Lainnie Emond and cluster will revisit the project of collecting fatal and nonfatal overdose data for the cluster towns to inquire if there are any links (ie. if a spike of overdoses occurs in Lowell, will a spike in another town(s) follow?).
- Lainnie Emond and cluster are updating an out-of-date flier specific to unwanted medication disposal box locations to provide communities with the most up-to-date information for Greater Lowell.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

***Lauren Keisling resigned from her position effective October 18th, 2019. 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:

- 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 conducted four workshops for the fall semester "Straight Talk" series. These sessions included open discussions about marijuana, stimulant, benzodiazepine, and opioid use to empower student decision-making around these 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

- 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.

Drug Free Greater Lowell (DFGL) Website:

- The Substance Abuse and Prevention Division is working to create promotional materials advertising the website to distribute among community partners and the community at large.

Monthly Meeting: October 30th, 2019 from 1-2pm 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
Total Encounters	78	76	32	47	88	58	41	48	74	--	--	--	542
Unique Encounters	--	37	28	29	52	34	28	36	53	--	--	--	297
Initial Interaction	--	9	6	9	17	3	7	13	12	--	--	--	76
OD Follow-Up	2	8	9	11	17	3	6	9	29	--	--	--	94
Section 35	2	1	0	1	5	1	1	2	2	--	--	--	15
Clinical Clients	7	7	5	4	3	2	2	2	2	--	--	--	34
Disseminate Narcan	0	0	3	6	13	4	20	5	25	--	--	--	76
SUD Treatment	11	15	14	12	14	14	18	14	22	--	--	--	134
Medical Treatment	0	1	0	5	3	4	4	5	4	--	--	--	26
Other Services	7	1	2	8	4	8	3	2	11	--	--	--	46
Misc. Outreach	--	--	--	--	--	156	223	464	71	--	--	--	914

Outreach and Educational Events

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
10-28-2019	Educational Presentation	Transitions, Tewksbury CAB	CO-OP Services	Pending
11-4-2019	Educational Presentation	Salvation Army, Bridging the Gaps Program	CO-OP Services, SUD Education	Pending

Relationship Building

Date	Organization	Relationship Building
10-1-2019	Salvation Army, Bridging the Gaps Program	CO-OP Supervisor and Team members met with Program Director to discuss program needs, and potential presentation by the CO-OP Team.

Additional

- 10/9/19 Lowell CO-OP Supervisor met with Amy Handel, Nurse at Middlesex Academy Charter School, to discuss substance use resources and possible Lowell CO-OP presentation.
- Lowell Police Department was awarded a Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This grant will provide funding to the Lowell CO-OP, including funds for salaries, transportation, and supplies, for three years.

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

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- Lowell Senior Center
- Lowell Public Schools
- Downtown Neigh. Association
- Life Connections Center
- Office of the City Manager
- Lowell CO-OP
- Department of Planning & Development
- Lowell Street Department
- Lowell Police Department
- Lowell Parks Department
- Lowell Housing Authority
- Canal Water Cleaners

Community Events Attended:

- 10/8 City of Lowell Health Fair
- 10/11 Reginal Opioid Task Force Meeting
- 10/19 Canal Water Cleaners: River Clean-up
- 10/22 City Council Meeting

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- Edwards Street Park
- Ecumenical Plaza
- Olga Nieves Park
- Merrimack River Bike Path
- Lowell Locks Parking Garage
- Fayette Street Playground
- Aiken Street Bridge
- Point Park
- Easter Canal Park
- Bridge Street Bridge
- Hunts Falls Bridge
- N. Common Park
- S. Common Park
- La Lachuer Park
- Jack Kerouac Park

Syringe Collection Activity 2019

Total Number Of...	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct 1st- 23rd	Nov	Dec	Total
Discarded syringe pick-up requests	8	6	8	21	22	35	28	---	---	128
Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests	6	21	20	17	14	14	10	---	---	102
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded syringe pick-up requests	49	240	334	256	157	337	200	---	---	1,582
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community	9	20	25	29	41	49	26	---	---	199
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	493	967	488	1231	895	1040	665	---	---	5,779
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	11	75	49	16	131	161	---	---	433