

Board of Health Report – February 5th, 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: February 24th and March 30th from 5:30-6:30pm.*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee finalized the fifth “Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA” report, which focuses on HIV and opioid-overdose risk factors in Lowell. The Data Subcommittee also created a “2019 Summary” report that highlights successes of our community partners.
- Continuing to co-lead Media Subcommittee meeting of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee released a press release highlighting winter weather risk factors for opioid overdose, as well as wrote a short provider message for the LGH medical provider monthly email.
- Continuing to work the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell grant partners to document the progress of the grant, 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.
- Lainnie and Maricia, the Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, held first and second round interviews for the Clinical Recovery Specialist position in January. A candidate recommendation has been made.

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.
- 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.
- Lainnie attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Annual National Leadership Forum from February 3rd through February 7th as a member of the Tewksbury Substance Abuse Prevention Collaboration.
- Lainnie is scheduled to attend the 2019 Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program (COAP) National Forum Tuesday 3/10 – 3/12, as the Substance Abuse Coordinator position will be funded in part by the LPD’s COAP grant once the PDMP grant concludes this fall.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

*** 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.*

- 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 is live. The MOAPC grant funded informational business cards and other outreach materials to promote the website.

Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal

- The Lowell Health Department is hosting its first Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal day on March 10th from 2-6pm at 341 Pine Street, Lowell, MA.

Other

- Continued discussions with MOAPC Coalition and BSAS grant funder to hire a contractor to analyze data, wrap up the MOAPC grant, and assess the current status of the MOAPC coalition via something similar to a SWAT analysis. Coalition identified their first request for a contractor to focus on assessing the current status of the coalition, with their second request being data analysis.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

*** 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:

- Social media campaign has been placed on hold until a new PFS Coordinator is hired.

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

-Community Health Coordinator, Kate Elkins, has completed a two-sided handout giving tips on the proper storage of prescription medication as well as identifying medication disposal sites in Lowell. Kate worked with a contracted graphic designer to create the handout format, and worked with Lainnie to create the handout content. This handout will be distributed to the general public with a specific focus on parents/caregivers of local youth. This handout has been reviewed by the grant’s assigned BSAS Grant Contract Manager and Technical Assistance Liaison; Lainnie will work to make the necessary changes before printing and distributing.

Monthly Meeting:

The next coalition meeting is scheduled for February 26th from 1-2pm at the Lowell Health Department.

Outreach Health Educator Position:

A new employee is scheduled start on February 24th, 2020.

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

Lowell CO-OP Data

--	Jan 2019	Jan 2020	2019 Total	2020 Total
Total Encounters	78	56	667	56
Unique Encounters	--	24	378	24
Initial Interaction	--	16	100	16
OD Follow-Up	2	8	116	8
Section 35	2	2	20	2
Clinical Clients	7	2	40	2
Disseminate Narcan	0	8	141	8
SUD Treatment	11	3	158	3
Medical Treatment	0	3	33	3
Other Services	7	10	47	10
Misc. Outreach	--	23	1581	23

Outreach and Educational Events

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Attendance
02-03-2020	Presentation	Transitions CSS	CO-OP Services	30
02-06-2020	Presentation	Lowell House – SOAP Program	CO-OP Services	15

Relationship Building

Date	Organization	Relationship Building
01-21-2020	Place of Promise	CO-OP Supervisor and team, to meet and discuss collaboration and services.
01-29-2020	Lowell DPD	CO-OP Supervisor and team participated in daytime PIT count with Director of Homeless Initiatives. Officer Mercier participated in nighttime PIT count.
02-18-2020	Bedford VA	CO-OP Supervisor and team, to meet and discuss collaboration and services.

Additional

- Candidate has been recommended for the Clinical Recovery Specialist.
- Lowell CO-OP brochure is has been finalized and is awaiting printing.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- Lowell Transitional Living Center
- Trinity E.M.S., Inc.
- Community Teamwork Inc
- Lowell House Inc.
- Lowell Building Commission
- Middlesex County Superior Court
- UTEC
- Lowell Engineering Division
- Mayor’s Task Force
- Mass Dot
- Hunger Homeless Commission
- Office of the City Manager
- Lowell CO-OP
- Department of Planning & Development
- Lowell Street Department
- Lowell Police Department
- Lowell Parks Department

Community Events Attended:

- 1/23 Greater Lowell Health Alliance meeting
- 1/27 Mayor’s Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force (QR2 Presentation)
- 1/29 City of Lowell P.I.T count event
- 1/31 Unwanted Medication/Sharps Disposal Day Planning Meeting
- 2/5 Homeless Commission Meeting (QR2 Presentation)

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- YMCA Drive
- Aiken St Bridge
- Oliveria Park
- Ecumenical Plaza
- South Common Villa
- 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 1-12	Mar	Total
Discarded pick-up requests*	8	6	8	21	22	35	38	22	8	20	9		197
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	6	22	21	17	14	14	14	11	7	18	4		158
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	49	240	334	265	157	337	322	113	22	375	75		2271
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	11	75	49	16	131	161	0	0	0	0		433
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	493	967	488	1231	895	1040	845	896	635	1125	356		8971
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	9	20	25	29	41	49	35	44	27	50	24		353

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

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

Community Outreach Educator
Linda Bellantoni

Linda's role focuses on enhancing the outreach efforts of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- Linda built relationships with the following community partners:
 - Veterans Department
 - Column Health - *Medication Assisted Treatment Provider*
 - Vinfen
 - Wayside Youth & Family Support Network

Community Events Attended:

- 2/3 Greater Lowell Health Alliance - Substance Use Prevention Task Force
- 2/3 Lowell CO-OP presentation at Tewksbury Transitions
- 2/5 Hunger for the Homeless Commission
- 2/5 Tewksbury Transitions - Luis Diaz (Middlesex Sheriff's Office, MATADOR Program) presentation
- 2/6 Recovery Café (Lowell House) - Open House
- 2/24 Lowell Mayor's Opioid Task Force

Outreach and Educational Events

Date	Event Type	Location	Topic	Individuals Engaged
01/29/2020	Wellness Wednesday - Resource Table	Middlesex Community College	Signs of an opioid overdose, Syringe Collection Program	100
02/17/2020	Lowell Kids Week - Resource Table	Boott Cotton Mills Museum	Medication and Sharps Disposal	<i>TBA</i>
02/26/2020	Community Resource Fair - Resource Table	Shaughnessy Elementary School	Syringe Safety, Medication Disposal	<i>TBA</i>
03/02/2020	Community Resource Fair - Resource Table	McAuliffe Elementary School	Syringe Safety, Medication Disposal	<i>TBA</i>