

Board of Health Report – June 3rd, 2020

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager
Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Lainnie continues to work with the Co-Chairs of the Mayor’s Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force. She has engaged in no planning as the March and April meetings were canceled due to social distancing measures.
 - *Upcoming Meetings: May 18th from 5:30-6:30pm (virtual), Monday June 29th from 5:30-6:30pm (TBD).*
- Lainnie continues to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Meetings are being held virtually. Agreed to hold off on creating a new “Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA” report until a topic is identified that would benefit the provider community.
- Lainnie continues to work the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell grant partners to document the progress of the grant for the final report, 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. All meeting are being held virtually or via conference call at this time.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Lainnie continues to be the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org (see MOAPC report).
- Lainnie has helped to create the template for an education project re: adult marijuana use and youth prevention through the Tewksbury Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative coalition.
- Lainnie continues to manage daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division. The Division is checking-in twice a week via a virtual platform to share updates and provide mutual support.
 - Lainnie, Maricia Verma (Lowell CO-OP Supervisor), Joe Aniello (Clinical Recovery Specialist), and Shannon Gray (Outreach Health Educator) have been working from home since March 23rd. Andres Gonzalez (Syringe Collection Program Coordinator) has continued to respond to incoming syringe pick-up requests and proactive pick-ups.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)

*** Lainnie Emond is overseeing the MOAPC Coalition and grant efforts in the interim***

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 while engaging in appropriate social distancing measures.
- Many towns in the Greater Lowell cluster continue to engage in post-overdose follow-up with precautions due to COVID-19.

Drug Free Greater Lowell Website

- www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org is being maintained via the MOAPC grant. The COVID-19 resource page related to mental health, substance abuse treatment and recovery, and youth prevention is being updated regularly.

2020 Website Analytics

	Jan	Feb	Mar*	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total page Views	645	497	--	470	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unique Page Views	496	362	--	329	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Analytics for March were unavailable at the time that this BOH report was submitted.*

Other Updates

- It was announced by BSAS on April 13th that the MOAPC grant will be extended through June 31st, 2020. BSAS reported that they had to adjust their timeline to release the new prevention RFR due to COVID-19, and in doing so made the decision to extend the MOAPC and Substance Abuse and Prevention Collaboration (SAPC) grants.
- Due to the grant extension, the MOAPC Coalition Coordinator position job description will be posted.
- The MOAPC grant is paying for two MOAPC Coalition members to attend Adcare's virtual New England Institute of Addiction Studies summer program from June 1st – 4th.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)
Shannon Gray, Outreach Health Educator

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

PFS Social Media Campaign:

Shannon is making necessary updates to the social media “meme” campaign and related-messaging. Shannon is working with the PFS grant’s assigned Technical Assistance Liaison and BSAS Grant Coordinator to gather feedback. Updates will be sent to the contracted graphic designer for creation. Instead of running focus groups with youth to gather their feedback on the memes, we will be gathering youth feedback from an online survey about the possible memes instead of running focus groups to adjust for social distancing measures placed because of COVID-19. This feedback will hopefully be gathered and analyzed by mid-June.

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 prescription medication educational flier for parents/guardians was printed and will be distributed to local programs who have access to parents/guardians; programs will then share with parents/guardians over the next couple of months. Shannon worked with PFS Coalition members to identify additional methods of flier distribution to reach parents/guardians of high-school aged youth. As social distancing measures set in place for COVID-19 have impacted direct contact for flier dissemination and education, PFS Coalition members have also been provided the educational flier electronically to share.

Monthly Meeting:

The Partnerships For Success Coalition meeting was held April 22nd from 1-2pm via Zoom. The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for May 27th and will be held virtually.

Outreach Health Educator Position:

Due to the impact of COVID-19, Shannon and other nonessential staff at the Lowell Health Department have been working from home since the last week of March. Shannon has created, and is continuing to update, a new timeline for PFS grant activities to adjust for recommendations set in place for COVID-19.

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

Lowell CO-OP Data

--	Apr 2019	Apr 2020*	Total 2019	Total 2020
Total Encounters	47	17	667	151
Unique Encounters	29	5	378	83
Initial Interaction	9	1	100	22
OD Follow-Up	11	0	116	10
Section 35	1	0	20	3
Clinical Clients	4	4	40	15
Disseminate Narcan	6	0	141	13
SUD Treatment	12	1	158	27
Medical Treatment	5	1	33	6
Other Services	8	1	47	20
Misc. Outreach	--	0	1581	43

Due to restrictions placed on Lowell CO-OP staff because of Corona virus (COVID-19), data analysis has been restricted to electronic records only. When remote work requirements are lifted the data analysis of both electronic and paper records will be revised.

Outreach and Educational Events

- Due to COVID-19 concerns, outreach and educational events have been temporarily suspended.

Relationship Building

- Due to COVID-19 concerns, in-person relationship building has transitioned to phone and email conversations. Although no new relationship building was engaged during April and Maysdsd, Lowell CO-OP team members have maintained contact with local partners and collaterals working with the same population.

Additional

- 3/23/2020: In order to reduce the physical presence of employees in public buildings, the City of Lowell asked that non-essential workers begin working remotely. Lowell CO-OP Supervisor and Clinical Recovery Specialist were included in those who were asked to work remotely.
- 4/29/2020 The Lowell CO-OP Supervisor and Clinical Recovery Specialist (CRS) received cellphones to facilitate their remote work. Fliers were printed created and sent out to partners to advertise the new cell phone numbers, as well as advertise phone numbers for the main Lowell CO-OP cellphone and the phone number for the Lowell House Clinical Outreach Specialist on the Lowell CO-OP.
- Lowell House Outreach Specialist, member of the Lowell CO-OP, has been distributing Narcan to community partners on a bi-weekly basis via Lowell House’s Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution grant.

Lowell Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP) – **Clinical Services**
Joseph Aniello, Clinical Recovery Specialist

Please note that “Clinical Staff” for the Lowell CO-OP are completed by Joseph Aniello, Maricia Verma (Lowell CO-OP Supervisor), and Gianna Sandelli (Outreach Specialist from Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recover).

Lowell CO-OP Clinical Services Data – 2020

--	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Clinical Sessions	--	--	18	16	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	34
Clinical Clients	--	--	7	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
Initial Interaction	--	--	1	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Medical Treatment	--	--	4	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Transportation	--	--	2	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2
Housing	--	--	5	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5
Financial	--	--	5	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7
DCF	--	--	4	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	8
Other	--	--	18	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	18

Definitions of Data Categories	
Clinical Sessions	Total number of clients that have engaged in clinical case management with Lowell CO-OP Clinical Staff. Includes duplicates of clients.
Clinical Clients	Total number of unduplicated clinical clients that were engaged by Clinical Staff.
Initial Interaction	Total number of clients that the Clinical Staff began clinical case management services during the month.
Transportation	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff case management for clinical clients with regard to transportation services.
Housing	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients in regard to housing services.
Financial	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical client in regard to financial services.
DCF	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients in regard to services related to the DCF.
Other	Total number of instances where Clinical Staff performed case management with clinical clients for any other service.
Case Management	The process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, and advocacy for clinical clients’ ongoing psychosocial needs for the promotion of long term substance use recovery.

Additional

- Clinical Recovery Specialist, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, and Outreach Specialist have continued to maintain contact with clients and collaterals on a remote basis while working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- Salvation Army
- Portuguese American Cvc League
- Lowell Community Health Center
- Life Connection Center
- Healthy Streets
- UMass Lowell
- Trinity E.M.S.
- Middlesex County Superior Court
- Mass DOT
- Office of the City Manager
- Lowell CO-OP
- Department of Planning & Development
- Lowell Street Department
- Lowell Police Department
- Lowell Parks Department

Virtual Meetings Attended:

- 4/29/2020: Greater Lowell Opioid Task Force Meeting (Zoom)

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- Dutton Street Bridge
- Riverfront Park
- Le Lachur Park
- Lowell Locks
- Eastern Canal Park
- 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...	April 2019	May 2019	April 2020	May 5 th -14 th 2020	Total 2019 (Apr-Dec)	Total 2020
Discarded pick-up requests*	8	6	14	3	188	82
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	6	22	9	7	144	54
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	49	240	124	49	2,214	1,230
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	20	0	0	443	0
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	493	967	882	541	8,615	4,049
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	9	20	51	25.5	329	210.5

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

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