

Board of Health Report – September 2nd, 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.
 - *Upcoming Meetings: August 31st 5:30-6:30pm, September 28th 5:30-6:30pm*
- Lainnie continues to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor’s Opioid Task Force. Meetings are being held virtually. The Subcommittee is working on an “Opioid Trends in Lowell, MA” that focuses on the impact of COVID-19 on OUD/SUD in Lowell.
- Lainnie continues to work the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell grant partners to document the progress of the grant for the final report.
- The one-year PDMP grant extension that the Lowell Police Department applied for due to the disruption of COVID-19 was recently approved. Budgeting and planning will be updated accordingly.

Lowell CO-OP and Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) Grant 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 at this time.
- Lainnie continues to attend monthly SPI grant, the grant that funds several Lowell CO-OP positions and efforts, conference calls with local and federal grant partners.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Lainnie continues to manage daily activities of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division.
- Lainnie continues to be the point person for www.DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org (see MOAPC report). Lainnie has been updating current and writing new content.
- Partnerships For Success (PFS) Grant
 - Lainnie has been working with Shannon, Outreach Health Educator, to compile qualitative and quantitative data for the final PFS grant report as the last day of the grant is September 30th, 2020.
 - Lainnie continues to meet monthly with Shannon, Technical Assistance Liaison Ivy Jones-Turner, and BSAS Grant Coordinator Tonya Fernandez to provide updates about the Lowell PFS grant and plan for the evaluation of the grant.
- Lainnie is part of the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium planning committee. This is the third year that the symposium will be held, and focuses on bringing together providers working SUD and prevention populations together to network and learn about local efforts. The symposium will be held virtually in December 2020.
- Lainnie and substance misuse prevention partners throughout Greater Lowell are planning for Recovery (September) and Prevention (October) months.

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.
- All towns in the Greater Lowell cluster continue to engage in post-overdose follow-up with precautions due to COVID-19. Some communities are using new methods to engage with clients while following guidelines, including utilizing telehealth and arranging to meet clients outside.

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.
- New content has been added about prescription medication.

2020 Drug Free Greater Lowell Website Analytics

	Jan	Feb	Mar*	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total page Views	645	497	559	470	430	494	988	--	--	--	--	--
Unique Page Views	496	362	390	329	295	325	617	--	--	--	--	--

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

Other Updates

- The MOAPC grant will be extended through June 30th, 2021.
- The MOAPC Coalition Coordinator position job description was posted on July 20th and will remain posted until filled. First round interviews began the week of August 10th.
- Lainnie is working with prevention staff from the MOAPC cluster communities to plan events for Recovery (September) and Prevention (October) months.

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

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

PFS Social Media Campaign:

Shannon released the youth social media “meme” campaign. The campaign launched on Thursday August 13th through the Lowell Police Departments Facebook and Twitter pages. Shannon is now working towards creating meme postcard handouts to distribute to youth who are not connected through social media. The postcards are in the end stages of creation and will be printed by the end of this month.

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 about 5,500 fliers were distributed to local programs, pharmacies, hospitals, and dentists that have access to parents/guardians. As social distancing measures set in place for COVID-19 have impacted direct contact for flier dissemination and education, PFS Coalition members have also shared the educational flier electronically to partners around the community.

Monthly Meeting:

The most recent Partnerships For Success Coalition meeting was held on August 19th from 1-2pm via Zoom. The next and last Coalition meeting is scheduled for September 16th and will be held virtually.

Partnership For Success Updates:

Shannon will be attending the 28th Annual New England School of Best Practices in Addiction Treatment training August 24th through August 28th. This is a week-long virtual training that will cover topics such as social inequalities, opioid use disorder 101, co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders, methamphetamines, and mental health disorders. The knowledge gained from these trainings will positively impact the work moving forward towards the end of the PFS Grant cycle.

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

Lowell CO-OP Data

--	July 2019	July 2020	2019 Total	2020 Total*
Total Encounters	41	154	667	363
Unique Encounters	28	87	378	204
Initial Interaction	7	34	100	66
OD Follow-Up	6	35	116	54
Section 35	1	1	20	5
Clinical Clients	2	16	40	38
Disseminate Narcan	20	41	141	69
SUD Treatment	18	37	158	66
Medical Treatment	4	4	33	17
Other Services	3	4	47	18
Misc. Outreach	223	125	1,581	184

Outreach and Educational Events

Due to Corona virus (COVID-19) concerns in-person outreach and educational events have been temporarily suspended

Relationship Building

Due to Corona virus (COVID-19) concerns relationship building continues to be focused on phone, email conversations, and video conferencing.

Additional

- 8/11/2020 The Lowell CO-OP moved offices within the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office Lowell Community Counseling Center (LCCC). The new office is larger and offers greater opportunity for social distancing.
- Lowell CO-OP Staff Update:
 - Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, Clinical Recovery Specialist, Police Officer, and Fire Fighter continue to work their regular Lowell CO-OP schedule.
 - Lowell House’s Clinical Outreach Specialist and Trinity EMS EMT continue to work reduced hours/dates on the Lowell CO-OP.
- The Lowell CO-OP continues to meet with clients in the office while socially distancing and wearing masks in accordance with the City Managers’ guidelines. The Lowell Health Department has provided masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes for the Lowell CO-OP team members to use.

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	7	10	65	--	--	--	--	--	116
Clinical Clients	--	--	7	4	3	4	16	--	--	--	--	--	34
Initial Interaction	--	--	1	0	0	0	4	--	--	--	--	--	5
Medical Treatment	--	--	4	1	0	0	6	--	--	--	--	--	11
Transportation	--	--	2	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	2
Housing	--	--	5	0	0	0	7	--	--	--	--	--	12
Financial	--	--	5	2	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	11
DCF	--	--	4	4	4	1	10	--	--	--	--	--	23
Other	--	--	18	0	0	5	2	--	--	--	--	--	25

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.

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator

City Department and Community Partner Engagement:

- MassHire
- Lowell City Council
- Lowell Public Works
- Mill City Grows
- Salvation Army
- 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

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 2020

Total Number of...	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug 1-19	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Discarded pick-up requests*	20	24	21	14	13	20	33	20	--	--	--	--	145
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	18	9	11	9	8	16	21	18	--	--	--	--	92
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	375	135	547	124	50	91	205	288	--	--	--	--	1,797
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	--	0
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	1125	774	727	882	583	1,190	1,824	1156	--	--	--	--	8,261
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	50	44	40	51	27.5	66	67	38	--	--	--	--	383.5

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

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