

Board of Health Report – October 7th, 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: September 28th and October 26th, 2020 from 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 with the Lowell Police Department and UMass Lowell grant partners to document the progress of the grant for the final report.

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.
- 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 with SUD and prevention populations together to network and learn about local efforts. The symposium will be held virtually on December 7th, 2020.
- Lainnie and substance misuse prevention partners throughout Greater Lowell are planning are creating a curated playlist of videos and podcasts to serve in place of in-person prevention education. Topics include vaping, youth substance use, and Narcan training. Videos will be housed on the Drug Free Greater Lowell website for anyone to view and share. The goal is to make the playlist of videos and podcasts live the in October. Videos and podcasts will be added as seen fit.

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):

- Cluster prevention and harm reduction partners continue to adapt to the changing nature of COVID-19’s impact on community education and post-overdose follow-up. Some staff continue to engage in post-overdose follow-up via phone, while others have begun to meet with clients outside in open spaces. Each partner is impacted by federal, state, and local parameters.

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 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	930	--	--	--	--
Unique Page Views	496	362	390	329	295	325	617	590	--	--	--	--

Other Updates

- Paperwork for the MOAPC grant extension through June 30th, 2021 has been signed by the City Manager and submitted to MDPH BSAS.
- A candidate for the MOAPC Coalition Coordinator position has been identified and will start in October.

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

Please be aware that funding for the 2015 Partnerships For Success grant ends on September 30th, 2020.

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. This campaign has engaged 174 individuals thus far. Shannon is now working towards creating and printing meme postcard handouts to distribute to youth who are not connected through social media. The 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 5,050 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. We were also able to have these fliers translated and printed into Khmer, Spanish, and Portuguese. These were shared virtually to members of the community by the PFS Coalition members and 75 printed Khmer fliers were disseminated into the community.

Monthly Meeting:

The most recent Partnerships For Success Coalition meeting was held on September 16th from 1-2pm via Zoom. This was the last PFS Coalition meeting before Lowell PFS officially ends on September 30th, 2020.

Partnership For Success Updates:

Shannon attended the 28th Annual New England School of Best Practices in Addiction Treatment training August 24th through August 28th. This was a week-long virtual training that covered 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

--	August 2019	August 2020	2019 Total	2020 Total*
Total Encounters	48	161	667	523
Unique Encounters	36	69	378	291
Initial Interaction	13	3	100	88
OD Follow-Up	9	6	116	80
Section 35	2	2	20	28
Clinical Clients	2	24	40	80
Disseminate Narcan	5	29	141	121
SUD Treatment	14	24	158	113
Medical Treatment	5	28	33	70
Other Services	2	1	47	44
Misc. Outreach	464	60	1,581	287

**On 6/22/2020 remote work restrictions eased allowing for the reevaluation data with the paper records, in addition to the electron health records. This reanalysis is reflected in the table above.*

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.

Lowell CO-OP COVID-19 Update

- Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, Clinical Recovery Specialist, and Lowell CO-OP Fire Fighter continue regular Lowell CO-OP duties.
- Lowell CO-OP Police Officer has returned full time with some limitations.
- Lowell House Clinical Outreach Specialist and Trinity EMS EMT continue on the Lowell CO-OP on a limited basis.
- The Lowell CO-OP Team continues to meet with clients in the office while socially distancing and wearing masks in accordance with the City Managers’ staff guidelines.
- The Lowell Health Department continues to provide 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	100	--	--	--	--	216
Clinical Clients	--	--	7	4	3	4	16	23	--	--	--	--	57
Initial Interaction	--	--	1	0	0	0	4	6	--	--	--	--	11
Medical Treatment	--	--	4	1	0	0	6	8	--	--	--	--	19
Transportation	--	--	2	0	0	0	0	0	--	--	--	--	2
Housing	--	--	5	0	0	0	7	3	--	--	--	--	15
Financial	--	--	5	2	1	1	2	3	--	--	--	--	14
DCF	--	--	4	4	4	1	10	1	--	--	--	--	24
Other	--	--	18	0	0	5	2	8	--	--	--	--	33

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:

- Lowell Public Schools
- 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	Sep 1-23	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Discarded pick-up requests*	20	24	21	14	13	20	33	45	9	--	--	--	179
Incoming calls for pick-up requests**	18	9	11	9	8	16	21	21	5	--	--	--	100
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded pick-up requests	375	135	547	124	50	91	205	413	87	--	--	--	2,009
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	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	1946	604	--	--	--	9,655
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes	50	44	40	51	27.5	66	67	62.5	21	--	--	--	429

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

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