

Board of Health Meeting – January 9th, 2018

Division of Substance Abuse and Prevention
Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator
Lainnie Emond, LMHC

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Grant Initiatives:

- Continuing to work with the Co-Chair of the Mayor’s Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force to plan monthly meeting agendas, identify potential initiatives, contact presenters, and invite new agencies.
 - *Next Meeting: January 28th 5:30-6:30pm in the Mayor’s Reception Room within City Hall*
- Most recent Data Subcommittee meetings for the Mayor’s Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force hosted on 11/19. No December meeting scheduled; next meeting is scheduled for January 14th. Subcommittee is working to create a prototype for storyboards that visually tell the evaluation of the opioid epidemic in Lowell. Storyboards will include qualitative and quantitative information to best represent the impact of the epidemic from 2013-present.
- Continuing partnership with LPD and UML re: PDMP grant to begin creating a “Death Database” as a means to retroactive study the lives of fatal opioid overdose victims. Plan is to analyze victims’ encounters with first responders, medical services, and other professionals to see where opportunities for harm reduction and education may have been missed as an effort to identify new opportunities for client engagement moving forward.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant

- Lainnie has continued to work on a shared vehicle Memorandum of Agreement between the six agencies/departments involved in CO-OP.
- Lainnie is in the first stages of creating a Hazmat Policy for the Lowell CO-OP. She has obtained current hazmat policies from Lowell Fire Department, Lowell Police Department, and Trinity EMS; plan is to review these policies to have a base to pull content from that is most appropriate for the CO-OP’s daily practices.

Other:

- 12/7 First ever Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium. Lainnie was part of the planning committee. Lainnie and UML/LPD PDMP grant partners oversaw a timeline of events for our communities, more specifically program openings/closing, hiring of new positions, implementation of grants, etc. Symposium attendees were encouraged to write event information plus a month/year of the event on a post it note and add it to a timeline that was laid out on a wall. Research partners plan to transcribe this information to create resources that will be sent out to Symposium attendees, such as PowerPoint slides, that can be used in future efforts, such as presentation and applying for grant funding.
- Lainnie and Kerran were invited by Tom Stopka (assistant professor at Tufts, lead on Lowell PEERRS grant) to work on a journal article re: syringe discard in Lowell based off of the work completed during the yearlong, grant-funded SSP and PEERRS program through Life Connection Center. Others involved on the article include Trinity EMS and UML.

Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC)
Michael Hall M.Ed.

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.*

- MOAPC Coordinator coordinating with 5 school systems for Life Skills Teacher certification in early 2019.
- Ongoing consultation with other MOAPC cluster coordinators on Life Skills training-building capacity in communities and creating a sustainable model. The Lowell MOAPC Cluster is considered a leader across the state.
- Brought in Ben Spooner from MassTAPP as a presenter on prevention and Life Skills implementation to the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Symposium (12/7).

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

- Merrimack Valley Substance Use Symposium Disorder Symposium:
 - Coordinated with the office of DA Marian Ryan in providing 200 doses of Narcan which were provided to over 180 providers at the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium.
 - Coordinated with Narcan trainers who presented three presentations of Narcan/Overdose Awareness trainings in strict accordance to grant funded DPH guidelines at the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Symposium.

Additional MOAPC activities include:

- Merrimack Valley Substance Use Symposium Disorder Symposium:
 - Chair of the planning committee for the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium, which was held on for December 7th at UTEC in Lowell. Over 350 providers attended.
 - Oversaw the creation of the Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder resource guide, which was distributed to all Symposium attendees. Contributions to the resource guide came from attendees of the symposium. Since 12/7, many more agencies have been reaching out to add their organizations to the guide. This will remain a living document and will grow over time
- Ongoing work on the drugfreegreaterlowell.org website. The new website will be a more user friendly site covering topics germane to our local communities.
- Facilitation of the December 12th sharps/unwanted medication take back event at the Health department. We collected 117 pounds of unwanted medications and over 182 pounds of unwanted sharps in sharps containers.
- Facilitated cluster wide MOAPC meetings coordinating efforts throughout the cluster towns and Lowell.
- Tri-Chair of the GLHA's Substance Use Prevention Task Force.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)

Lainnie Emond is currently acting as interim PFS Coordinator until position is filled.

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

- Lowell High School: Interim PFS Coordinator has continued to meet with school officials to identify ways that PFS can educate youth, including the utilization of a social media campaign.
- Middlesex Community College: Interim PFS Coordinator presented to a first year class on 11/21 re: substance abuse and misuse of prescription medications.
- Social Media Campaign: The PFS social media campaign to educate youth against the dangers of sharing prescription medications continues to be spearheaded by Kate Elkins, Community Health Coordinator at the Lowell Health Department. Based off of outcomes from youth focus groups held by Kate, various media platforms and messaging strategies have continued to be discussed.

Strategy Two (social media and education dissemination to parents/guardians and high school-aged youth re: proper disposal and storage):

- PFS created a one page handout targeting parents/guardians that identifies strategies to store and dispose of unwanted prescription medications. Handout is being translated into Spanish, Portuguese, and Khmer to reach additional populations.
- 12/12 Lowell Health Department held its quarterly Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day event. To prepare for the event, PFS partnered with Walgreens on Bridge Street – PFS had 2,000 ½ page informational pamphlets printed, which were stapled on to prescription bags the week prior to the Disposal Day.

Monthly Meeting:

- No December meeting. Next meeting scheduled for January 16th, 2019.

PFS Grant Coordinator Position Updates

- At the time of this report writing, Lowell Health Department is in the process of making a candidate recommendation.

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

Relationship Building/Interactions with Local Providers and Collaterals

- 12/3 CO-OP and members of the Middlesex Sheriff 's office met with Jessica Grillis from Column Health (new MAT provider in Lowell).
- 12/5 Several CO-OP members attended Lowell Mental Health Court Stakeholders meeting.
- 12/6 CO-OP networking meeting with Tewksbury State Hospital Addictions Unit.
- 12/10 CO-OP was invited to Habit OPCO's managers meeting to network.
- 12/17 CO-OP Supervisor met with Victor Elm Tree Clinic (new MAT provider in Lowell).

Presentations:

- 12/7 CO-OP gave a panel presentation at Substance Use Disorder Symposium on the topic of outreach
- 12/19 CO-OP presentation at Transitions, Tewksbury CAB

Meetings:

- 9/26 and 10/22 CO-OP Team Meetings
- 10/30 and 11/27 CO-OP Supervisors Meeting

Trainings:

- 11/6 CO-OP attended a Hazmat Training with Lt. Dan Eaton of Lowell Fire Department.

Client Outreach:

- Continued to assist clients getting into the Lowell Transitional Living Center.

Client Numbers (11/1/2018 – 11/30/2018):

- Total Encounters: 78
- Clinical Recovery Specialist Active Clients: 15
- Families/clients who inquired information about Section 35 and petitions for Section 35: 3
- Clients CO-OP helped admit to some form of treatment: 30
- CO-OP helped clients with other services: 12

Client Numbers (12/1/2018 – 12/15/2018):

- Total Encounters: 34
- Families/clients who inquired information about Section 35 and petitions for Section 35: 1
- Clients CO-OP helped admit to some form of treatment: 6
- CO-OP helped clients with other services: 3

Other

- Lowell Health Department, in agreement with other CO-OP agencies, is starting the process of requesting that the two part-time Clinical Recovery Specialist positions be combined into one full-time Clinical Recovery Specialist position. Lowell Health Department has had difficulty finding candidates for the part-time positions that can work part-time during the day M-F and meets the necessary qualifications.

Opioid Overdose Alerts

- 12/3 Chief Winward of Lowell Fire Department issued an opioid overdose surge warning.