

Board of Health Meeting – March 6th, 2019

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-Chairs 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: February 25th and March 25th from 5-6pm in the Mayor’s Reception Room at City Hall.*
- Most recent Data Subcommittee meetings for the Mayor’s Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force hosted on February 4th and 25th. Subcommittee is continuing to work on storyboards that include qualitative and quantitative information to best represent the impact of the epidemic in Lowell from 2013-2018. The intent of these storyboards, once finalized and printed, is to be used as a shared resource with community partners to display at various locations and events.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant and Lowell CO-OP

- Lainnie has continued to work on a shared vehicle Memorandum of Agreement between the six agencies/departments involved in CO-OP.
- Lainnie has continued to create a Hazmat and Occupational Hazard Policy for the Lowell CO-OP. This document reiterates City policy and outlines the additional step of notifying both direct agency supervisor and CO-OP Supervisor.
- Lainnie and Maricia will be running the monthly CO-OP Supervisors Meeting on February 26th. This meeting is made up of CO-OP supervisors, grant management staff, and UML research partners.
- SPI grant cohort finalized an amendment of the action plan to be more inclusive of the clientele that the CO-OP is encountering and the data that the CO-OP is collecting. This amendment was approved by the federal grant funder.
- Lainnie, Lowell CO-OP Supervisor, and LPD grant partners have been meeting with LGH “Bridge Clinic” grant staff to identify how the CO-OP can best work with the new clinic starting on 4/1. *See Lowell CO-OP page for more details.*

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- Lainnie and Kerran are continuing to work with community partners from Tufts, UML, and Trinity EMS 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.
- Lainnie, Mike, and Maricia are continuing discussions with community partners re: identifying potential sources of transportation for clients actively abusing substances to access various levels of treatment.
- Two new staff have started at the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division: Lauren Keisling on 2/5 as Outreach Health Educator and Andres Gonzalez on 2/11 as Syringe Collection Program Coordinator.

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

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 facilitated Life Skills Teacher certification for four school systems and three partner agencies on 2/28/19. Coordinating for next training in March or April 2019.
- Ongoing consultation with other MOAPC cluster coordinators throughout the state on Life Skills Training specific to building capacity in communities and creating a sustainable model. The Lowell MOAPC Cluster is considered a leader across the state.

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

- Continuing to coordinating support with community providers to promote and provide overdose prevention and awareness training and resources to high risk populations

Additional MOAPC Coordinator Activities:

- Several meetings with the Lowell Health Department team and contracted website developer to revamp the DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org website. The website is tentatively going live in mid-May 2019.
- Coordinating with Lowell Police Department on additional support in destruction of collected unwanted medications. Next Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day is scheduled for March 13th from 2-6pm at the Lowell Health Department.
- Facilitated cluster wide MOAPC meeting on 2/29 which focused on coordinating efforts throughout the cluster towns and Lowell; next MOAPC meeting is scheduled for 3/19.
- Tri-Chair of the Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention (SUP) Task Force.
 - SUP Task Force Initiative: after several months of gathering input from local agencies, the Task Force is updating the substance use resource cards. Target date for completion of this project is May 2019.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)
Lauren Keisling, Outreach Health Educator (PFS Coordinator)

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

Middlesex Community College (MCC) Classroom Education and Wellness Wednesdays:

PFS Coordinator is scheduled to present on 3/25 during an MCC class on the topic of substance abuse trends on college campuses with an additional focus on promoting positive wellness behaviors. Coordinator will be scheduled to attend MCC Wellness Wednesday tabling events once a month – these events are resource fairs for MCC students to learn about relevant health information/resources, and PFS will be focusing on prescription medication misuse and overdose prevention education.

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

Public Service Announcement (PSA):

Lowell Health Department's Community Health Coordinator and Substance Abuse and Prevention Division worked with Lowell Telecommunications Center to create a public service announcement (PSA) for the upcoming Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day on 3/13. The PSA was filmed in English, Khmer, Portuguese, and Spanish, and will be broadcasted on local Lowell TV channels. The focus on this PSA was on "Keeping Kids Safe" from prescription drug misuse. PFS Coordinator helped to revise the script and provide feedback to the final PSAs.

PFS Monthly Meeting:

- Next PFS Meeting scheduled for 2/27 12:30-2:00PM at Lowell High School.

Additional PFS Coordinator Activities:

- PFS Coordinator has been in contact with UMASS Lowell to discuss opportunities for prescription drug misuse/ illicit drug use prevention education amongst various University groups.
- PFS Coordinator initiated conversation with CTI YouthBuild regarding YouthBuild's request to implement workshop curriculum surrounding substance misuse, overdose prevention, mental health, and HIV/Hepatitis C transmission. PFS Coordinator has enlisted the support of community providers to help to provide this education.

*****Lauren started at the Lowell Health Department on 02/05/2019.*****

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

Relationship Building/Interactions with Local Providers and Collaterals

- 2/11/2019 CO-OP Team spoke at the Monday Moments at Billerica House of Corrections.
- 2/21/2019 CO-OP Meeting with Heather Donovan, MassHire Lowell Career Center.
- 2/27/2019 Members of the CO-OP to speak at a Learn to Cope meeting, Saint’s Campus
- 2/28/2019 Greater Lowell Technical High School: CO-OP Supervisor will observe Substance Use group, meet with organizers, and establish school’s needs.

Meetings:

- 2/19/2019 HUB Model Presentation: CO-OP Supervisor, Outreach Specialist Gianna Sandelli, Police Officer Sheryl Mercier, and other members of the Lowell Police Department attended to learn more about the HUB model.
- 2/21 CO-OP Team Meeting. Heather Donovan from MassHire, Lowell Career Center, joined the meeting as a networking opportunity for the CO-OP.
- 2/26 CO-OP Supervisors Meeting

Client Outreach:

- Continued Narcan training and distribution, and distribution of coats and blankets.

Additional CO-OP Activities:

- Kevin Jones, Lowell Fire Department, and Sheryl Mercier, Lowell Police Department, are attending a 60 hour Recovery Coach Training.
- CO-OP Supervisor, Substance Abuse Coordinator, Health Department Director, and LPD grant management/oversight staff have continued to converse with LGH Circle Care staff re: the implementation of LGH’s Bridge Clinic. Lowell CO-OP will be a partner on this grant, along with Lowell Community Health Center and Middlesex Recovery. Bridge Clinic is a grant funded initiative starting on 4/1/19 that will enable individuals with an opioid use disorder to be prescribed a three day dose of Suboxone at the LGH EDs and at the Bridge Clinic itself, which in the building next to LGH Saint’s campus.

Client Numbers:

Description	January 2019	2/1/19 – 2/19/19
Total Client Encounters	95	51
Clinical Recovery Specialist Active Clients	7	7
Families/clients who inquired information about Section 35 and petitions for Section 35	6	11
Clients CO-OP helped admit to some form of treatment	11	6
CO-OP helped clients with other services	2	7

Syringe Collection Program
Andres Gonzalez, Syringe Collection Program Coordinator (SCPC)

Outreach:

- SCPC has begun developing new program flier, educational PowerPoint presentation geared towards students, and PSA commercial.
- SCPC has begun engaging in community outreach.

Building Community Partnerships:

- SCPC has begun meeting with local agencies that collect sharps.

Job Preparation:

- SCPC has met and trained with Trinity on syringe collection and exposure protection.
- SCPC has been creating a tracking system for syringe pick-up requests and responses.
- SCPC is beginning to strategically plan a systematic sweep of Lowell for syringes

Additional Syringe Collection Program Coordinator Activities:

- SCPC translated and recorded the Substance Abuse and Prevention Division's Unwanted Medication and Disposal Day public service announcement in Spanish.

Syringe Collection:

- Once the SPCP has been trained and equipped, he can begin to respond to needle pick-up requests. In the meantime, the City continues to be well served by Trinity EMS; residents can continue to call the nonemergency police line to report needle pick-up requests. The Lowell Health Department will announce once the SCPC has been trained and is ready to respond to calls Monday through Friday during business hours. Trinity EMS will continue to work with the city to respond to needle pick-up requests that the LPD receives on nights and weekends.

Andres started at the Lowell Health Department on 02/05/2019.