

Board of Health Meeting – June 12th, 2019

Substance Abuse and Prevention Division, Lowell Health Department

Substance Abuse Coordinator, Division Manager

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 Meetings: June 24th from 5:30-6:30pm in City Hall.*
- Continuing to lead Data Subcommittee of the Mayor's Opioid Task Force. Subcommittee members are investigating if there is a correlation in an increase in opioid related overdoses and increased temperature/humidity. Data being analyzed is from June, July, and August of 2016, 2017, and 2018. Results will be documented in another report and/or short handout.

Smart Policing Initiative Grant and Lowell CO-OP

- Lainnie and Maricia continue to lead monthly CO-OP Supervisors Meeting comprised of CO-OP supervisors, grant management staff, and UML research partners.
- Lainnie and Maricia have begun interviewing for the full-time Clinical Recovery Specialist position. First round interviews were held the weeks of 5/13 and 5/20, and second round interviews are being planned for the first week in June.
- Ongoing meeting with Maricia, LPD grant staff, UML research partners, and CO-OP members are being held to brainstorm ways to enhance the CO-OP model and plan for upcoming grant funding.
- Lainnie is engaged in updated the various CO-OP data processes, as well as has been working on administrative documents that highlight CO-OP's work in addition to post-opioid overdose follow-up.
- 5/17 Lainnie and Maricia participated in a Homeless Outreach meeting facilitated by CTI discuss coordination of care and brainstorm ways to improve the homeless population's access to housing services.

Additional Substance Abuse Coordinator Activities:

- 5/22 Participated in the quarterly Lowell SSP Stakeholders Meeting hosted by Lowell Community Health Center. Discussed ways in which data re: sharps disposal could be collaboratively documented between all agencies collecting disposed sharps. More conversations to follow.
- Lainnie is 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.
- Actively planning the Health Department's next Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day. Next Disposal Day is scheduled for June 11th, 2019.
- Actively working with Division staff to write and edit content for the new DrugFreeGreaterLowell.org website. Website launch date is TDB.

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.*

- Ongoing consultation with teachers and administrators within the Greater Lowell MOAPC Cluster on fidelity and implementation of Life Skills Training.
- Gathering end of year data from participating schools and organizations. Will be utilized for planning implementation and support needs for 2019-2020 school year

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

- Coordinating support with community providers to promote and provide opioid overdose prevention and awareness training, and resources to high risk populations. This includes Narcan training and post overdose follow up visits in several communities
- In the process of assessing existing supports of this strategy outside of MOAPC involvement. This is part of our overall sustainability assessment.

Additional activities include:

- Working on the Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention committee website planning group
- Planning has begun for the second Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium scheduled for December 6th, 2019. The planning committee is chaired by MOAPC coordinator.
- Facilitated cluster wide MOAPC meeting on May 28th to continue coordinating efforts throughout the cluster towns and Lowell.
- Presented on “Overdose and Suicide” as part of a panel at the state Suicide Prevention Conference (Framingham, Ma. - May 1st). Topic addressed the lack of attention and subsequent data on the possibility or likelihood that at least some accidental overdoses may in fact be completed suicide.
- Tri-Chair of Greater Lowell Health Alliance Substance Use Prevention task force. On May 7th, brought in “Rides to Recovery” CEO to the GLHA substance use prevention committee meeting to begin planning utilization of “Rides to Recovery” services in the Greater Lowell Area. “Rides to Recovery” is a private non-profit that provides 24/7 transportation to detox and treatment for those with substance use disorder and willing to begin an attempt at recovery.
 - Facilitating a sub-committee from MOAPC cluster communities and local organizations to begin arranging funding for “Rides to Recovery”.
- Attended New England Institute of Addiction Studies weeklong conference at Worcester State College (June 3rd-7th). This conference will provide classes and training on the latest methods and trends in substance use treatment. The MOAPC grant also funded tuition and fees for five additional substance use specialists from cluster towns to attend the conference.

Partnerships for Success (PFS)
Lauren Keisling - Outreach Health Educator

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

CTI YouthBuild Workshops:

- Educational workshops were held on a rotating weekly basis from 4/9 - 5/28. Workshops were presented by staff from the Lowell Health Department (LHD), Lowell Community Health Center, and the NAN Project. Topics included: Substance Use in Lowell, HIV/HCV Transmission, Mental Health and Substance Use, and Overdose Prevention.

UMASS Lowell (UML) Collaboration:

- PFS Coordinator conducted the “Straight Talk” discussion-based educational series of workshops in collaboration with the UML Wellness Center. The series ran from 4/9 – 4/30 on Tuesday evenings on the UML campus. Each session focused on a different substance: opioids, marijuana, stimulants, and benzodiazepines. Students attending the workshops were given the space to ask any and all questions about each substance and their use. Student attendance was as follows: 4 on 4/9 (opioids), 18 on 4/16 (marijuana), 5 on 4/23 (stimulants), and 13 on 4/30 (benzodiazepines).

- PFS Coordinator attended the spring semester Stress Relief Fair on 5/2, where education around the disadvantages of using alcohol and/or stimulants like Adderall during final exam time were discussed in addition to presenting healthier coping skills. 250 students attended the event.

SAPC/PFS Partnership:

- PFS Coordinator is collaborating with Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC) Program Director through the Tewksbury Police Department to create an “Anti-Mixing” campaign targeted at youth ages 12-25 to raise awareness on the dangers of mixing substances.

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

- In preparation for the LHD’s upcoming Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day on June 11th, PFS Coordinator is working with the Lowell Sun to secure paid advertising for the event as one strategy to educate the public on the potential of youth misuse if unused medications are left in the home.

Community Outreach:

- PFS Coordinator attended the Lowell Earth Day Festival on 5/5 along with other LHD staff to educate the public on the environmental detriments caused by flushing prescription medication down the toilet, promote the upcoming Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day, and to discuss the City’s new Syringe Collection Program. PFS Coordinator collaborated with Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility to obtain information on the harms of flushing prescription medication.

- PFS Coordinator attended the Lowell Community Blood Drive on 5/9 to promote the upcoming Unwanted Medication and Sharps Disposal Day and the Syringe Collection Program.

Monthly Meeting:

- Next PFS Meeting is scheduled for 6/26 from 1:00PM-2:00PM at the LHD.

Additional:

- The PFS Coordinator is working to add the strategy of education dissemination to college-aged youth on sharing prescription medication to the PFS Logic Model.

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

Relationship Building / Interactions with Local Providers and Collaterals:

- 5/1 Middlesex Academy Charter High School. The CO-OP Team presented to the Health Class; explaining CO-OP services, as well basic education on Substance Use, and local resources.
- 5/23 HIV Networking Breakfast, Life Connection Center. The CO-OP Team presented to local providers; explaining CO-OP services.

Meetings:

- 5/7, 5/15 CO-OP Team Meetings
- 5/28 CO-OP Supervisors Meeting

Additional:

- Ongoing: Substance Abuse Coordinator and CO-OP Supervisor have been conducting interviews for the full-time Clinical Recovery Specialist position.
- 5/10 CO-OP grant funding sustainability planning meeting. Substance Abuse Coordinator and CO-OP Supervisor met with the LPD grant management staff and UMass Lowell grant research staff to discuss planning and applying for new grant funding.
- 5/16 Data Meeting. Substance Abuse Coordinator, CO-OP Supervisor, the LPD grant management staff, UMass Lowell grant research partner met to discuss extracting data from the CO-OP electronic health record and strategies for data analysis.
- 5/17 Homeless Outreach Meeting at Community Team Work, Inc. Substance Abuse Coordinator and CO-OP Supervisor met with outreach supervisors and workers throughout Lowell to discuss coordination and improvements in the effort to the homeless population within the city.

Client Engagement

Client Engagement Description	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 1st - May 16th 2019
Total Client Encounters	78	95	86	32	32	46
Clinical Recovery Specialist Active Clients	17	7	7	5	4	4
Families/clients who inquired information about Section 35 and petitions for Section 35	1	6	1	0	1	3
Clients CO-OP helped admit to some form of treatment	16	11	15	8	12	5
CO-OP helped clients with other services	3	2	2	2	7	4

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

Outreach and Building Community Partnerships:

- Schools
 - The Cardinal School: Presented to teachers on Sharps Protocol
 - The Career Academy: Presented to students on Sharps Safety
- Community Agencies
 - Healthy Streets (SSP)
 - Lowell Neighborhood Associations: Collation for a Better Acre
 - Neighborhood Works
 - Greater Lowell Health Alliance
 - Merrimack River Watershed Council
 - Life Connections Center
 - Lowell House Addiction Treatment and Recovery
 - Teen Block – LCHC
 - Lowell Police Department
 - Lowell Parks Department
 - Salvation Army: Lowell
 - Lowell Housing Authority
 - Lowell Youth Development Collaborative

Community Events Attended:

- 5/5 Earth Day Festival: Sharps Education
- 5/11 32nd Acre Clean-Up: Sharps Education & Clean-up
- 5/9 Lowell Community Blood Drive: Sharps Education
- 5/17 Students vs Police Department Fund Raiser: Program Outreach
- 5/22 Peace in the Park: Sharps Education & Clean-Up
- 6/9 Merrimack River Clean-up day: Sharps Education & Clean-up

Areas Proactively Swept for Discarded Syringes:

- N Common Park
- S Common Park
- Whistler Park
- River Front Park
- Merrimack River Bike Path
- Archie Manor (Concord River)
- Aiken St Bridge
- Kittredge Park
- Lincoln St Bridge
- Plain St Bridge
- Chelmsford St Bridge
- Broadways St. Park
- Dutton St
- Thorndike Vacant lots

Syringe Collection Activity

Total Number Of...	March 2019	April 2019	05/06/19-05/22/19	June 2019
Discarded syringe pick-up requests	1	8	17	--
Incoming calls for syringe pick-up requests	0	6	16	--
Syringes picked-up while responding to all discarded syringe pick-up requests	0	49	121	--
Hours proactively picking-up discarded syringes in the community	0	9	14	--
Syringes proactively picked-up while in the community	0	304	791	--
Syringes picked up during Community Clean-up Events	0	0	11	--