



The City of Lowell

Municipal Perspectives on Combatting
the Opioid Crisis

Who is at your table?

- **Motion to establish the Mayor's Opioid Epidemic Crisis Task Force – October 27, 2015**
- **Community Partners are critical – they need to be diverse and committed**

- **Partners: Community Buy-in**

Mayor, City Councilors & City Manager	Trinity Ambulance
Police, Fire & Health Depts.	Lowell House, Inc.
Greater Lowell Health Alliance	Greater Lowell Community Foundation
Lowell Public Schools/Gr. Lowell Tech H.S.	Megan's House
Zack's Team Foundation	Lowell Community Health Center
University of Massachusetts – Lowell	United Teen Equality Center
Lowell General Hospital	Lowell Housing Authority

Community Engagement: It takes more than the Municipality

Municipality

- Mayor's Opiate Epidemic Crisis Task Force
- Substance Abuse Coordinator – Point person for City projects
- Police Grants - \$ 1.3 Million in 2016
- Health Grants – MOAPC/PFS/SAPC 2015-2020

Lowell General Hospital – Greater Lowell Health Alliance

- 2016 Community Needs Assessment identified Substance Abuse as one of the top health priorities for the City to address over the next three years

Greater Lowell Community Foundation

- 2016-2017 Designated Opioid Abuse as a Health Priority for funding non-profits

Trinity Ambulance – First Watch Program

- Real-time overdose data shared with Municipal Departments

Lowell's Innovative Partnerships:

Community Opioid Outreach Program (CO-OP)

- Lowell Police Department statistics showed that individuals who had overdosed had a 50% increase in risk of overdosing within 48 hours
- Began in the Fall of 2015
- The CO-OP team includes members of the:
 - Lowell Police Department
 - Lowell Fire Department
 - Lowell Health Department
 - Lowell House, Inc.
- Goal is to respond to 100% of individuals who have overdosed within 24-48 hours

Lowell's Innovative Partnerships: CO-OP & Project C.A.R.E

- **The CO-OP Team is charged with:**
 - Home visits to victims of recent overdoses;
 - Connecting victims of overdoses to necessary services for assistance;
 - Talking with families of overdose victims about services offered for family support;
 - Referring children of overdose victims to the Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell.
- **Project C.A.R.E. (Child Assessment and Response Evaluation)**
 - Partnership with District Attorney, Marian Ryan
 - A first-of-its-kind public-private partnership to provide immediate services to children who experience opioid-related trauma.

Lowell's Innovative Partnerships: How the Police Department is leading the way for our community:

- Awarded \$ 1.3 Million in grant funding in 2016
- Including partners: Fire Department, Health Department, Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell, Lowell House, Inc., University of Lowell, Suffolk University
- Allowing for additional staff: Substance Abuse Coordinator, (2) Substance Abuse/Mental Health Counselors, (2) Recovery Coaches, (1) Substance Abuse Clinician,
- Incorporate a variety of data sources, including Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) data, to better understand drug use trends and gaps in services in the City of Lowell
- Enhance capacity of law enforcement to investigate fraudulent prescriptions, over prescribing and involuntary manslaughter cases due to drug distribution
- Create a Fatal Overdose Review Panel

Targeting our Children: Middle Schoolers

- **Middle School Substance Abuse Curriculum**
 - Innovative partnership with Healthy Futures, Inc.
 - 4,240 students, Grades 5th – 8th
 - Life-Skills training is evidence-based
 - **Increased Resiliency:** The skills that protect and prepare children for adulthood are the same skills that protect and prepare them against substance use
 - **Protective Factors:** Peer pressure, refusal skills, character building, bullying, physical health and fitness, healthy relationships, sexual abuse, making good choices, communication skills, etc.

Targeting our Children: High Schoolers - Grades 9-12

- **Partnership for Success (PFS) 2015-2020**
 - Lowell is one of 16 lead communities to receive funding from the Mass. Department of Public Health
 - Goal is to reduce prescription drug misuse amongst individuals ages 12 to 25
 - Focus on student athletes
- **High School Health Classes**
 - Addictive Behaviors Unit, discussions and activities
 - Films / TV Programs
 - Speakers



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