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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Buy-in</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor, City Councilors &amp; City Manager</td>
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<td>Police, Fire &amp; Health Depts.</td>
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<td>Greater Lowell Health Alliance</td>
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<td>Lowell Public Schools/Gr. Lowell Tech H.S.</td>
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<td>Zack’s Team Foundation</td>
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<td>University of Massachusetts – Lowell</td>
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<td>Lowell General Hospital</td>
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<td>Trinity Ambulance</td>
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<td>Lowell House, Inc.</td>
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<td>Greater Lowell Community Foundation</td>
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<td>Megan’s House</td>
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<td>Lowell Community Health Center</td>
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<td>United Teen Equality Center</td>
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<td>Lowell Housing Authority</td>
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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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