



2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**GLHA**  
GREATER LOWELL HEALTH ALLIANCE

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Back row left to right: Sovanna Pouv, Rachel Chaddock, Denise Garrow-Pruitt, Karen Frederick, Jayne Andrews. Front row left to right: Deirdra Murphy, Dorcas Grigg-Saito, Frankie Descoteaux, Michelle Davis, Sonith Peou.

## A LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am pleased to share this year's annual report, highlighting a year of significant growth and achievements for the Greater Lowell Health Alliance (GLHA). It is an exciting time at the GLHA as we focus on the long-term strategic planning and sustainability of this important organization, which plays a critical role in helping the Greater Lowell community identify and address the most urgent unmet health and wellness priorities.

We are very fortunate to benefit from the professional leadership of Executive Director Kerrie D'Entremont, who has worked collaboratively with the Board of Directors and our five health-focused, community-led GLHA task forces over the past year to create lasting change in the health of the region.

The GLHA's achievements over the past year include the successful distribution of nearly \$400,000 in grants to organizations targeting health priority areas of need. In the past year, we were also excited to launch a newly renovated website ([greaterlowellhealthalliance.org](http://greaterlowellhealthalliance.org)), offering a valuable and robust resource for our community and our collaborative partners. Along with the website, we revealed a new logo for the GLHA, reflecting the positive health, hope and teamwork that define us.

We also launched a significant initiative in helping to reduce the impact of cancer, while reducing cancer disparities and promoting health equity in the Greater Lowell region. (Read more about the Greater Lowell Cancer Disparities Needs Assessment on the following pages.)

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the board for their support, commitment, and vision for this organization over the past year, as we build on a solid foundation to further strengthen our capacity both financially and organizationally.

Thank you, too, to the many individuals, businesses, and community organizations that contribute their time, services and collaborative energy to enable the GLHA to fulfill our mission to improve the overall health of our communities.

With your continued support and engagement, we at the GLHA are committed to a strong and healthy future for Greater Lowell.

Sincerely,

Michelle B. Davis  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Greater Lowell Health Alliance



The new GLHA website, shown here, was launched in 2015.

## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is truly a privilege to be part of the great work being done by the Greater Lowell Health Alliance. I am incredibly honored to collaborate with the outstanding members and leaders of our Board of Directors and five task forces that dedicate their time, talent, and energy to serve others.

Over the past year, I am pleased to share that the GLHA has taken major steps in addressing the unmet health needs identified in the 2013 Greater Lowell Community Health Needs Assessment. In 2014, we awarded nearly \$400,000 in grants: \$200,000 to address a range of critical health issues and an additional \$200,000 to fund substance use and prevention efforts in our region.

We are already seeing measurable impact from this first cycle of grants, as these funds reach the communities and nonprofit organizations on the front lines of targeting priority areas of need. As part of this grant cycle, we continuously review and evaluate both the distribution process and the outcomes of the grants distributed, to ensure that we are maximizing the impact of these funds.

Another important role of the GLHA is to unite and mobilize the stakeholders and decision-makers who can affect positive change. In June of this year, the GLHA and our Mental Health Task Force hosted a Mental Health Legislative Roundtable to increase awareness and improve access to services throughout Greater Lowell. In September, the GLHA and our very active Substance Use and Prevention Task Force hosted a summit with Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan, gathering nearly 100 members of the media and community address the critical opiate crisis in our region. These are just two examples of the spirit of collaboration among our members, elected officials, leaders, businesses, and nonprofit organizations that enable the GLHA to fulfill our mission to facilitate changes needed to improve the overall health of our communities.

Together, we are improving the health of our community and making a positive difference in the lives of those who live, work and visit the Greater Lowell region.



Kerrie D'Entremont  
Executive Director



## STEERING COMMITTEE

MERCY ANAMPIU  
Lowell Community Health Center

DIANNE CORBIN  
Merrimack Valley Trauma Services

MARILYN GRAHAM  
Community Coordinator,  
Lowell WIC

HEATHER HILBERT  
Lowell General Hospital

AINAT KOREN  
University of Massachusetts Lowell

SHEILA OCH  
Lowell Community Health Center

KELLY PETRAVICZ  
Southbay Early Intervention

SUSAN PULIDO  
The Center for Hope and Healing

MARIA RUGGIERO  
Tewksbury Police Department

JENNIE WELCH  
Tewksbury Police Department

NEYSHA WILKINSON  
Lowell General Hospital



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LOWELL REGION.**



## GREATER LOWELL HEALTH ALLIANCE: CREATING IMPACT

The Greater Lowell Health Alliance of the Community Health Network Area 10 brings together healthcare providers, business leaders, educators, and civic and community leaders with a common goal to improve the overall health of our communities. The GLHA serves as a catalyst in identifying and addressing unmet healthcare needs, raising awareness, and providing resources for community partners to take actions that will lead to significant change.

The GLHA serves as an advocate for non-profits, securing funding and sharing resources with the outstanding front-line organizations addressing the region's health priorities. Working collaboratively, the GLHA helps break down barriers that threaten our most vulnerable populations, linking them to available services and resources to address their needs.

Over the past year, the GLHA has taken major steps in addressing the unmet health needs identified in the 2013 Greater Lowell Community Health Needs Assessment, conducted by researchers and students from University of Massachusetts Lowell on behalf of the GLHA and Lowell General Hospital.





## GLHA TASK FORCES

The work of each of the GLHA's five task forces, individually and collectively, has set the stage for long-term improvements in the health of our community, with a focus on encouraging collaboration among member organizations. Their creativity and resiliency have already led to significant improvements in our healthcare landscape. It is even more impressive when you consider that these task forces are comprised entirely of community volunteers who take time from their full-time commitments to focus on the health of others. Below is a brief description of the task forces and some of the initiatives they have undertaken to address specific health concerns in each of their target areas.

### CULTURAL COMPETENCY TASK FORCE

CHAIR: MERCY ANAMPIU

We seek to increase the capacity of healthcare and human service providers to achieve positive outcomes with all patients/clients. We do this by increasing provider awareness of cultural diversity and skills related to working with diverse client bases in order to better serve all persons.

Over the past year we:

- Trained 40 new medical interpreters for the region, working towards our goal of increasing capacity of service providers to meet National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service Standards. The GLHA provided scholarships to five participants to attend the training.
- Assisted in hosting a concert to raise funds for Ebola victims, as well as collecting medical supplies for medical workers in African countries affected by Ebola.
- Reviewed cultural competency curricula for future trainings in the region.

### LGBTQ SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIRS: HEATHER HILBERT, ISA WOLDEGUIORGUIS

This subcommittee addresses the potential risk facing members of the LGBTQ community by educating local businesses, community organizations/agencies and health providers in the region so that they are better able to serve the LGBTQ community. The 2013 Greater Lowell Community Health Needs Assessment revealed that members who are isolated or without family support are at risk of developing mental health, substance abuse and other issues. There is a lack of sensitivity to this community by many healthcare professionals, a lack of outreach, as well as a lack of awareness of transgender individuals. Individuals in this community tend to go to Boston to seek care, as there is a better sense of acceptance, expertise and confidentiality.



Over the past year, we restructured under new leadership, increased membership, and:

- Hosted the 3rd Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, with more than 50 people attending.
- Completed and vetted a first version of a provider survey to assess services locally.

### HEALTHY EATING AND LIVING TASK FORCE

CHAIRS: MARILYN GRAHAM, HEATHER HILBERT



The mission of the Healthy Eating & Living Task Force is to develop and improve partnerships that are committed to leading Greater Lowell area residents to a healthier community. Cross-cultural and intergenerational collaborations build on strengths of the community to improve active living and nutrition for healthy minds and healthy bodies for all.

Since its inception, the Healthy Eating & Living Task Force has successfully reached out to community members and local organizations to increase awareness and initiate healthy lifestyle changes. Past programs and initiatives include a walking program event in partnership with UMass Lowell; International “Walk to School Day”; Safe Routes to School; “Lowell Gets Moving” resource guide; and a walking program with Middlesex Community College.

Our major focus over the past year has been:

- A policy on Complete Streets, which has been approved by the Lowell City Council. The goal of Complete Streets is to improve the health of all residents within the City of Lowell who are disproportionately low income, by advocating, educating, and transforming Lowell’s built environment to be more accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.
- The “Mass in Motion: Corner Store Initiative.” Our goal is to work with local convenience stores to help provide healthier food and drink choices for the community. Over the past year we have engaged with several stores in Lowell and are planning to expand to surrounding towns in 2016. Communities that have been participating in Mass in Motion since its inception in 2009 have shown a statistically significant drop in the percentage of overweight and obese school children compared to the state as a whole.
- A successful Food Day Kick-off Event on October 21, 2014. Certificates of recognition were given out to local food champions.
- The No Kid Hungry campaign, an initiative that connects children in need with nutritious food and teaches their families how to cook healthy, affordable meals. The campaign also engages the public to make ending child hunger a national priority. Through its Cooking Matters program, the No Kid Hungry campaign educates and empowers low-income families to stretch their food budgets so their children receive healthy meals at home.
- Safe Routes to Schools (SRS) whose primary aim is to improve the safety and health of our schoolchildren. They educate students on pedestrian and bike safety and give away reflectors to students after their presentations which are normally done during school assembly. Parents and volunteers are trained on crosswalk, sidewalk and parking lot safety.
- Advocacy – Efforts of task force members and other partners resulted in the Senate authorizing the Massachusetts Office of Business Development to expend funds on the Massachusetts Food Trust Program and maintaining funding for the Mass in Motion Program and increasing overall funding for health promotion and disease prevention.

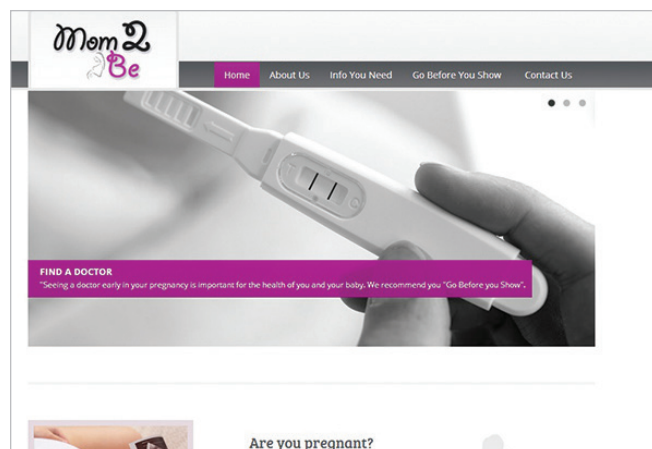
## MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH TASK FORCE

CHAIRS: AINAT KOREN, KELLY PETRAVICZ, NEYSHA WILKINSON

We bring together key stakeholders to address the most pressing health issues related to Mothers and their families.

Over the past year we:

- Continued with marketing the Mom2Be website ([www.Mom2Be.info](http://www.Mom2Be.info)), which offers information and resources about the services available to promote early and adequate prenatal care to at-risk populations (immigrants, teens, and women experiencing substance abuse or domestic violence). We are working with individuals and organizations interacting with at-risk populations to spread the word about this helpful resource.
- Hosted a Car Seat Safety event. More than 79 car seats were checked and 19 car seats were given away. This was in collaboration with Lowell General Hospital, Tewksbury Police Department and Hannaford.
- Hosted a three-day Child Passenger Safety & Training (CPS) at the Tewksbury Police Department, with a goal is to help prevent misuse of car seats. GLHA, Lowell General Hospital and Tewksbury Police Department were sponsors.
- Started a support group for first-time moms, moms with infants and expectant moms.
- Participated in another successful World Breastfeeding Week celebration.



The Mom2Be website, which can be viewed at [www.Mom2Be.info](http://www.Mom2Be.info).

## TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: STEPHANIE BUCHHOLZ

We work to decrease teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease transmission among Greater Lowell youth through information gathering and distribution, integration of services, and supporting effective initiatives. Over the past year we:

- Worked on a training curriculum for pediatricians at Lowell General Hospital and Lowell Community Health Center and for provider meetings at pediatric practices, for them to share best practices for adolescent health and addressing confidentiality.



- Conducted a survey among local pharmacies to determine whether 16-year-old teens were able to purchase emergency contraception and how much pharmacy employees knew about how emergency contraception works. According to the findings:
  - Nearly 90 percent sold emergency contraception, but more than 60 percent gave incorrect information concerning who was able to purchase it.
  - There was a lack of information about local Family Planning Clinic/resources.
- Followed up survey by providing emergency contraception educational information and laws to local pharmacies.
- Purchased and distributed condoms and educational materials to community organizations that serve populations with high rates of teen and unplanned pregnancies and STD transmission.

## DELAYING THE SECOND PREGNANCY IN TEEN MOTHERS PROJECT SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: AINAT KOREN

Program design: Additional funding is being sought to start a pilot program in the City of Lowell delaying second pregnancies and helping young mothers to complete their high school education, with outcomes consistent across diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The program has two main components:

- Intense bi-monthly training through membership in a group and
- Ongoing, individual support provided by a Home Visitor

The membership and participation in bi-monthly Advisory Group meetings, provides a mechanism for intense training and peer support for the common goal of not getting pregnant.

Monthly Home Visitors will provide information and education, ongoing guidance and support, referrals to community services, and monitoring and follow-up of contraceptive use. The Home Visitors are community members that will serve as surrogate mothers, sisters, school and welfare advocates for these young mothers and their children.



# GLHA TASK FORCES

## MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

CHAIRS: DIANNE CORBIN, SHEILA OCH, SUSAN PULIDO

We bring together mental health providers to share resources, examine and develop best practices and identify service gaps that we can collaboratively address. We are comprised of over 15 mental health providers and social service agencies and our objectives are to reduce stigma associated with mental health issues, increase awareness of mental health issues and available services, improve access to mental health care, and identify and address mental health issues that face our community.

Among our initiatives over the past year:

- Hosted a Mental Health Legislative Roundtable on June 5, 2015, sponsored by the Greater Lowell Health Alliance, State Rep. Thomas Golden, and local, regional and state leaders. The discussion was focused on addressing the mental health crises in Greater Lowell and how we can work together to resolve the critical issues in our communities. Footage of this successful event can be viewed on the Mental Health page at [greaterlowellhealthalliance.org](http://greaterlowellhealthalliance.org).
- Continued to develop action plans to address challenges faced by Mental Health Providers. We convened a new support group whose purpose is to provide a place where people can come together to garner support from each other. The group is open to anyone who is practicing social worker/mental health work in the area and is meant to be fun and informal and will be semi-structured.
- Participated in the 6th Annual Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) Mental Health Forum to address the often overlooked and stigmatized issue of mental health in the AAPI community. The overall goal is to improve participants' ability to assist members of the AAPI community and their families by increasing their ability to work across generations and understand how multimedia arts can be an influential part of recovery and resiliency. The program addresses issues of concern to consumers and mental health practitioners, agencies, educators, policy makers and researchers. The objectives are to:
  - Identify how multimedia arts (dance, theatre, video, etc.) are used in recovery resiliency within the AAPI community;
  - Identify mental health issues particular to Asian American refugee communities;
  - Identify common issues related to cross-generational mental health treatment;
  - Articulate the role personal narratives play in mental health wellness within the AAPI community.





## SUBSTANCE USE & PREVENTION TASK FORCE

CHAIRS: MARIA RUGGIERO, JENNIE WELCH

Since 2008, the Substance Use & Prevention (SUP) Task Force has worked to strengthen new and existing collaborations in the Greater Lowell community to prevent and reduce the use of substances amongst our community members. With a focus on environmental strategies, the task force employs efforts on policy making, substance use intervention, and prevention education.

Impact: The SUP Task Force partnerships have led to engagement of over 2,500 residents annually, over 50 compliance checks conducted each quarter, and drug prevention education to over 2,000 students (grades 3-12) annually. Also, through data collected by the Environmental Strategies Working Group (ESWG), youth usage of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs have seen a steady decline over the past 4 years.

Over the past year, we:

- Hosted September National Recovery Month and October National Substance Abuse Prevention Month press conference and events in the region.
- Participated in the Substance Use and Prevention Regional Initiative for education efforts in the towns of Billerica Chelmsford, Dracut, Lowell, Tewksbury, Westford and Wilmington, funded by a \$100,000 state grant secured with efforts from Task Force members.
- Sponsored “Drug Take Backs” events by local police departments.
- Participated in a pilot project to distribute nasal Naloxone (Narcan) that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose.

There are five dynamic subcommittees under the SUP umbrella:

### MASSACHUSETTS OPIOID ABUSE PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE (MOAPC)

CHAIR: PETER SAING

Led by the City of Lowell, the subcommittee includes the towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Tewksbury, Westford, and Wilmington. This initiative aims to address opioid misuse and its related consequences through implementing strategies focused on local policy, practices, and environmental change.

The mission of the Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) is to implement local policy, practice, systems, and environmental change to prevent the use/abuse of opioids; prevent and reduce opioid overdoses, both fatal and non-fatal; and increase both the number and the capacity of municipalities across the Commonwealth addressing these issues.

In the past year we launched [drugfreegreaterlowell.org](http://drugfreegreaterlowell.org), a website that provides resources on substance use and prevention.

### ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES WORKING GROUP (ESWG)

CHAIR: SOCHENDA UCH

Led by Lowell Community Health Center’s Teen Block, ESWG works to inform and educate youth, parents and members in the community about how substance abuse is affecting our neighborhoods. ESWG is a youth lead group that implements strategies to reduce and prevent substance use.



Some activities include youth surveys, compliance checks, forums, events, workshops, campaigns and training. By doing this we hope to create policy change and reduce the percentage of substance abuse in our community.

### MEDICAL MARIJUANA SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: MARK KENNARD

The subcommittee focuses on legislation that was passed allowing for the medical use of marijuana, convening local leaders to discuss the concerns of enforcement and access, as well as the potential impact on youth. The goals of the subcommittee are:

- To be informed on the status of the statewide medical marijuana laws and implementation
- To educate ourselves and the community on the issues and concerns
- To offer assistance to cities and towns looking to develop zoning laws ordinances and/or regulations.

### REGIONAL CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIR: SOCHENDA UCH, KAYLA LANDRY

Lead by Lowell Community Health Center, his Subcommittee focuses on building capacity within the school districts of Billerica, Dracut, Tewksbury, Westford, and Wilmington by:

- Engaging students with age-appropriate assemblies, bringing awareness to the dangers of substance misuse
- Providing age-appropriate, evidence-based education to youths in grades K-12.

### NEW INITIATIVE FOR 2015: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE (SAPC), LAUNCHED JULY 2015.

CHAIR: MARIA RUGGIERO

Led by the Tewksbury Police Department, SAPC is part of a comprehensive approach to substance misuse and abuse prevention in Massachusetts. This Subcommittee focuses on increasing the capacity of communities working to prevent and reduce underage drinking and other drug use among youth. Collaborating with MOAPC this initiative focuses on the communities of Chelmsford, Dracut, Lowell and Tewksbury.

## GLHA GRANT DISTRIBUTION

Over the next 14 years, the GLHA will distribute nearly \$5 million in funds allocated by Lowell General Hospital through the hospital's Determination of Need process for its recent campus expansion. This process through the Department of Public Health ensures that hospitals are providing a measurable community benefit to the communities they serve.

### 2015 GRANTS: DETERMINATION OF NEED FUNDS

In the summer of 2015, the GLHA distributed more than \$7,300 in "mini grants", in addition to \$33,410 in donations or sponsorships to community organizations. Here is some of those funds in action, including initiatives of the GLHA's five health-centered task forces:

#### TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

CULTURAL COMPETENCY TASK FORCE (\$788)

Transgender Day of Remembrance took place on November 20, 2014, with nearly 50 people attending. Names of murdered transgender victims were read out. There was a walk from Lowell City Hall to the University of Massachusetts Inn and Conference Center, where a meal was served.

#### PURCHASE OF TWO AMBULANCE CHILD RESTRAINTS/BABY ACR

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH TASK FORCE (\$1,399)

The goal of this project is to assure that pediatric patients are safely transported to hospitals, especially when car seats are not an option. The task force purchased two ACR-4 (Ambulance Child Restraint)/BABY ACR, a flexible, adjustable harnessing system designed for the safe and effective transport of infants and children in an ambulance to be used by the Tewksbury Fire Department ambulances.

#### RESOURCE CARDS

SUBSTANCE USE AND PREVENTION (\$2,154)

The Task Force printed and laminated 10,000 resource cards to give to first responders (law enforcement, fire, EMS) to provide after overdoses and also to give out to the community as needed.

#### DELAYING THE SECOND PREGNANCY

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH (\$2,000)

The funds will be used to send a Home Visitor for training in Chicago. Home Visitors are community members that serve as surrogate mothers, sisters, school and welfare advocates for these young mothers and their children.

#### TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION

MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH (\$1,002)

The Teen Pregnancy Sub Committee's project was aimed at increasing access to free condoms in non-clinical community settings. Condoms were purchased and distributed to community organizations that serve populations with high rates of teen and unplanned pregnancies and STD transmission, including teens in the Hispanic, Asian and African communities.

### 2014 GRANTEES: DETERMINATION OF NEED FUNDS

Over the past year, nine community-based organizations have been utilizing \$200,000 in GLHA grants to address critical health issues in the Greater Lowell area. Grants were awarded around the priority areas of mental health, substance abuse, diabetes, obesity, respiratory diseases (e.g. asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), cardiovascular disease, and Hepatitis B in the Cambodian community. Preference was given to projects that serve low-income, vulnerable, and/or at-risk communities. Learn more about the recipients below on our website ([greaterlowellhealthalliance.org](http://greaterlowellhealthalliance.org)).

- Lowell Community Health Center – Lowell in Motion (\$50,000)
- Wayside Youth & Family Support Network, Inc - Access to Services for Southeast Asian Youth (\$50,000)
- United Teen Equality Center, Inc - Preventing Substance Abuse to Help Youth Succeed (\$20,000)
- University of Massachusetts Lowell - Healthy Homes for Child Care (\$20,000)
- Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell - Hepatitis B education and screening for the Cambodian community of Lowell (\$17,000)
- Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell, Inc. - Outreach Specialist (\$15,000)
- Bridgewell, Inc. - Pathfinder Outreach Project (\$13,000)
- Town of Chelmsford and the Tewksbury Police Department – Substance Use Education Prevention Weeks (\$7,500 each)





## 2014 GRANTS: SUBSTANCE USE AND PREVENTION

Since the fall of 2014, 10 nonprofit organizations and communities have been utilizing \$171,426 in GLHA grants to address the increasing issues surrounding substance abuse. Grants were awarded in the priority areas of building capacity of those working with children and youth on prevention services; addressing change in the social environment by promoting community norms and public policies that decrease substance use; and reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors among youth and families by providing substance abuse prevention, education, outreach programs and services. Emphasis was placed on building local partnerships to implement strategies that change community conditions and increase the community's capacity to sustain effective efforts. Learn more about the recipients below on our website ([greaterlowellhealthalliance.org](http://greaterlowellhealthalliance.org)).

- Lowell Community Health Center - Substance Use and Prevention Task Force Regional Initiative (\$100,000)
- Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention Committee - Substance Use and Prevention Collaborative (\$10,000)
- Lowell House, Inc. - Prevention Outreach Project (\$10,000)
- Lowell Public Schools - Arts in Substance Abuse Prevention for Lowell Middle Schools (\$10,000)
- Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell, Inc - Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist (\$10,000)
- Tewksbury Police Department- Substance Use and Prevention Education Week (\$10,000)
- Town of Chelmsford — Substance Use Disorder Education and Prevention Week (\$6,600)
- Dracut Public Schools/Richardson Middle School -Substance Awareness Program (\$6,226)
- Westford Health Department, Utilizing Evidence-Based Prevention Programs to Reduce Substance Abuse in Westford (\$6,100)
- Lowell Police Department — LPD LYDC Drug Awareness Event (\$2,500)



## CANCER DISPARITIES CAPACITY BUILDING PILOT PROJECT

With the release of the Greater Lowell Cancer Disparities Needs Assessment in the summer of 2015, the GLHA has launched a significant initiative in helping to reduce the impact of cancer, while reducing cancer disparities and promoting health equity in the Greater Lowell region.

As the leading cause of death in Massachusetts, cancer claims approximately 13,000 lives annually. Racial and socioeconomic disparities continue to impact cancer incidence and mortality in Massachusetts and the Greater Lowell communities experience a higher age-adjusted overall cancer death rate than the state (224.7 per 100,000 versus 185.2 per 100,000) based on the most recent MassCHIP reports from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Greater Lowell community residents are burdened with higher mortality rates across almost all cancer types including lung, breast, uterine and oropharyngeal disease sites.

In early 2015, GLHA conducted a cancer disparities needs assessment in the Greater Lowell region, funded by a \$50,000 grant through the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for Phase I of the Cancer Disparities Capacity Building Pilot Project. The assessment gathered information on the health status of area residents, as well as cancer disparities and health inequities of interest and importance to the community. The needs assessment was conducted by researchers at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, in partnership with Lowell General Hospital and the Lowell Community Health Center.

The needs assessment final report is available on the GLHA website ([greaterlowellhealthalliance.org](http://greaterlowellhealthalliance.org)) and is being disseminated to community members and organizations. Phase II, funded by another \$50,000 DPH/CDC grant, will implement interventions to address cancer disparities in our region.

## 2015 COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

The success of the GLHA relies on the collaborative relationship with the many wonderful partner organizations throughout Greater Lowell, including:

Acre Family Child Care	Latin American Health Institute	Mill City Grows
African Center for Merrimack Valley	Living Waters	Neighborhood Action Group
Alternative House	Lowell Adult Education	Network Health
Anne Sullivan Center	Lowell Alliance for Families and Neighborhoods	Next Step Living
Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence	Lowell Chamber of Commerce	Northeast Behavioral Health
Billerica Public Schools	Lowell Community Health Center	Pawtucketville Neighborhood Association
Billerica Substance Abuse Prevention Committee	Lowell General Hospital	Polished Dental
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts	Lowell Health Department	PRIDESTar EMS
Boston Medical Center Health Net Plan	Lowell Housing Authority	Project BEAM Early Intervention
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell	Lowell House, Inc.	Project Bread
Bridgewell/Pathfinders	Lowell National Historical Park	Project Cope
CARSTAR	Lowell Police Department	Senior Whole Health
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association	Lowell Public Schools	Servings
Center for Hope and Healing	Lowell Public Schools – School Wellness Committee	Sisters of Notre Dame
Chelmsford Board of Health	Lowell Senior Center	SolAmor Hospice
Chelmsford Stop and Shop	Lowell Telecommunications Corporation	South Bay Early Intervention
Christ Jubilee International Ministries	Lowell Transitional Living Center	South Bay Mental Health
Circle Health	Lowell Veterans Department	Spina Bifida Association of Massachusetts
Circle Home	Lowell WIC	Statewide Head Injury Program
Coalition for a Better Acre	LUK Inc.	Stop and Shop
Community Teamwork Inc.	March of Dimes	SunBridge Healthcare Corporation
Community Servings	Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers	Tewksbury Cares
Department of Children and Families	Massachusetts Department of Public Health	Tewksbury Board of Health
Department of Veteran Services	Massachusetts Department of Public Health	Tewksbury Police Department
Dracut Public Schools	Emergency Prep	Tewksbury State Hospital
D'Youville Senior Center	Massachusetts State Representatives	Tewksbury Treatment Center
Eastern Bank	Mass Health Operations	Tewksbury Detox Center
Elder Services of Merrimack Valley	Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of	Tobacco-Free Community Partnership
Fallon Community Health Plan	Cruelty to Children	Tobacco Control – MDPH
Genesis HealthCare	Mental Health Association of Greater Lowell	Town and Country Health Care Center
Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts	Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities	Town of Chelmsford
Glenwood Care and Rehab	Merrimack Valley Food Bank	Trinity EMS
Greater Lowell Technical High School	Middlesex Community College	Tyngsboro Health Department
Greater Lowell YMCA	Middlesex Partnership for Youth	United Health Care
Habit Opco, Inc.	Middlesex Sheriff's Office	United Teen Equality Center
Hallmark Health	Merrimack Valley AHEC	University of Massachusetts Lowell
Hannaford Supermarket	Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities	UMass Lowell Police Department
Healthy Futures	Merrimack Valley Food Bank	VNA of Greater Lowell delete now Circle Home
Home Away from Home	Merrimack Valley Legal Services, Inc.	Wayside Youth and Family Support Network
Home Health VNA	Merrimack Valley Trauma Services, Inc.	Westford Board of Health
Institute for Health and Recovery	Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board	Wilmington Board of Health
International Institute of Lowell	Middlesex House of Correction	YMCA of Lowell



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