

The Lexington Overdose Outreach Project (LOOP) and the First Responders and Community Partners Overdose Prevention Project (FRCPOPP)

Advisory Council and Grants Overview

Until now, the primary role of the Advisory Council was to share ideas, make suggestions, and provide advice on two grants LFUCG received in October, 2018. The overall goal of both grants was to put activities in place to reduce overdose fatalities and to strengthen the overdose prevention infrastructure. The Advisory Council provides guidance for both grants and is comprised of individuals, agencies and programs that are impacted by the opioid epidemic (including individuals in recovery from substance use disorder, parents that have lost a child to overdose, representatives from the community, and many others. The diversity of this group has strengthened the project and has increased opportunities to reach grant goals.

While this does not capture all of the contributions of the advisory council, these are some examples of the how the advisory council influenced the successful implementation of the grants:

Increased naloxone in African American communities

Increased naloxone in faith community

Frontline social workers at the Department of Community Based Services provided

Fayette County Drug Court-forthcoming training of 150 participants, staff and judges (delayed due to COVID-19)

Offenders who chose to receive it are given naloxone upon being discharged the Fayette County Detention Center and once it is safe to do so, naloxone training for those participating in visitation at the detention center

Probation and Parole Officers provided naloxone

A brief overview of both grants:

The Lexington Overdose Outreach Project (LOOP)

Original Award Period: October 1, 2018-September 30, 2020 (extension granted until 9/30/2021)

Amount of Award: \$500,000

- Funded by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (at the time of application it was called the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program)
- Awarded in October 2018 but implementation did not begin until March 2019
- When originally awarded, it was a two-year grant scheduled to end September 30, 2020, but a no-cost, one-year extension has been granted.
- The primary goal of this grant was to provide a social worker to work with the Community Paramedicine Program (located within the Lexington Fire Department) that would follow-up with all non-fatal overdoses that occur in Fayette County to connect them treatment or harm reduction services. The social worker also spends a great deal of time working with the family members of the individual that has experienced an overdose.

LOOP Activities from May 2019-May 2020

Reported Overdoses	1207
Contacts Attempted	439
Unable to Locate (Bad address/ Homeless/ other)	317
Contacts Made Individual	175
Referrals through CRT	43
Total Community Resources Packets	669

First Responders and Community Partners Overdose Prevention Program (FRCPOPP)

Original Award Period: October 1, 2018-September 30, 2022

Amount of Award: \$2,000,000

- Funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- Awarded in October 2018 but implementation did not begin until March 2019.
- It is technically a four-year grant but reporting to demonstrate progress on identified goals and re-application are required annually with a new funding award provided annually upon approval of re-application.
- We anticipate requesting at least a six month no-cost extension (depending on the amount of unexpended funds the requested extension may likely be closer to twelve months). Without an extension, the grant period would end September 30, 2022.

- The goals of the grant include distribution of naloxone to individuals at risk of overdose, to community partners that need naloxone for their programs/agencies, and to anyone who needs it for any reason; the implementation of a Good Samaritan Campaign to encourage individuals to call 911 if they have witnessed an overdose; to provide naloxone to first responders (Lexington Police and Fire Departments already carried naloxone) but other first responders did not. Another goal of the grant is to facilitate access to treatment or harm reduction services for individuals.
- Over \$1,000,000 of the budget is allocated to purchase of naloxone. Depending on the cost of the medication, this allows us to purchase approximately 3,800 naloxone kits annually.
- In June 2020, FRCPOPP presented a 12 month snapshot of grant activities. Our Project Officer was very complimentary of grant activities and of the role the advisory council plays in the successful implementation of the grant. The information shared with the Project Officer can be found below:

The First Responders and Community Partners Overdose Prevention Project (FRCPOPP) grant has allowed for increased naloxone training in the community, especially in high risk groups such as individuals attending treatment programs and in day shelters. In the first year of naloxone distribution, almost 3,400 kits were distributed in the community. Among individuals who received a refill kit, the majority (57%) were replacing a kit that was used on an individual who overdosed— the vast majority survived (97%).

Naloxone Distribution	March 2019 – February 2020	
	Count	Percent
Naloxone Training Events		
<i>Community Training Events</i>	47	-
<i>Needle Exchange Training Events</i>	151	-
<i>First Responder Training Events</i>	3	-
Naloxone Kits Distributed	3373	-
<i>Initial Prescriptions</i>	1977	59%
<i>Refills</i>	1396	41%
Initial Naloxone Prescriptions		
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	929	47%
<i>Female</i>	1031	53%

FRCPOPP grant funds supported the hiring of a project coordinator to provide outreach in the community. The majority of individuals have been referred to treatment, but individuals in the community are met “where they are.” A large part of the project coordinator’s activities involve building connections, trust, and relationships with both community members and service providers to help navigate individuals to the services they need. While not captured in the table below, the project coordinator has distributed approximately 1200 business cards to community members. This outreach has allowed him to make nearly 200 informal referrals during needle exchange hours alone. Informal referrals can range from providing a phone number for a treatment program for the individual to call themselves to ongoing discussions about an individual’s substance use to build rapport for when the individual is ready for treatment or other services.

Community Members Served	March 2019 – February 2020	
	Count	Percent
Referrals		
<i>Treatment</i>	65	61%
<i>Harm Reduction</i>	29	28%
<i>Other</i>	12	11%
Referral Refusals		
<i>Declined/Delayed Detox</i>	6	-
<i>Declined Assessment</i>	0	-
Demographics		
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	61	58%
<i>Female</i>	45	42%