



B.O.A.

Burlington Overcoming Addiction

The story of BOA's conception

Location is key when it comes to buying a home, raising children, looking for jobs and even distributing drugs. Burlington, MA is strategically located right between Boston and the New Hampshire border, gaining easy access to Interstates 93 and 95 as well as multiple drug distributing cities such as Lowell, Lawrence and Lynn. Burlington's Drug Detective Unit quickly began to see a rise in drug related crimes, opioid overdose 911 calls, and drug distribution within town including the long stretch of highway that passes through Burlington. The Burlington Police Department knew something had to quickly change and that they could not arrest their way out of this epidemic. In an effort to reach those affected by the current opioid epidemic Officer Bob Aloisi and fellow detectives from the Burlington Drug Detective Unit started hosting a weekly support meeting where family members, loved ones or the person struggling personally with substance use disorder could come and receive support and/or treatment resources directly. This was a safe place for those affected to gather and support each other, ask for treatment resources and also receive education on naran and how to properly administer it to someone overdosing. An overdose vigil was also held on the town common to remember those lost to drug addiction. All of these steps were taken in an effort to address the opioid epidemic in Burlington before any PAARI/Americorps members were actually placed in Burlington. The Burlington Police Department is 100% committed to addressing this crippling epidemic head on and helping all those affected access the necessary resources to tackle substance use disorder.

Goals to creating a sustainable Police Department-Based Opiate Outreach Program in Burlington, MA.

What are the goals through the PAARI/Americorps program?

1. Raise awareness and provide education on the opioid epidemic in Burlington and surrounding communities.
2. Network with local community agencies such as the fire dept, department of public health, council on aging, selectmen/town officials etc to let the town of Burlington know we are here and to educate them on the resources and support we can provide.
3. Continue to hold and grow a strong, bi-weekly support meeting for Burlington residents affected by substance use disorder whether it is family and loved ones or the person suffering directly. We provide support and resources to help those affected by drug addiction through personal experience, guest speakers talking on topics such as detox, inpatient treatment, sober living, grief counseling/support services, MAT (medication assisted treatment) and Narcan use/training.
4. Offer direct referrals to treatment for those looking to address their substance use disorder.
5. Provide education on the warning signs and symptoms of an overdose. Provide training on Narcan to the residents as well as community officials/staff who should be prepared at all times to assist with an individual that may be overdosing from opioids.
6. Follow up on overdose or drug related incidents that are reported by the fire or police departments. Offer resources and/or treatment to the victim of the drug related incident as well as support services to their family and loved ones.
7. Reach out to known members of the community that may be struggling with substance use disorder that are known to the police who would benefit from being contacted to see if there are any ways we can help them to access treatment or support services to assist them with navigating a successful path to recovery.
8. Attend community events such as town meetings, luncheons and public service opportunities to provide support to the community and also network with other community officials as well as residents so they know we are an accessible asset to those struggling with substance use disorder.
9. Attend local support groups such as Learn to Cope to offer assistance to neighboring communities and spread the word about PAARI to offer support/education wherever we can be useful.