

Beth Israel Lahey Health 
Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center

**Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Held Virtually Via Zoom**

Present: Walter Armstrong, Elizabeth (Liz) Browne, Richard Giordano, Jamie Goldfarb, Nancy Kasen, Barry Keppard, Angie Liou, James Morton, Sandy Novack, Holly Oh, MD, Alex Oliver-Davila, Joanne Pokaski, Triniese Polk, Jane Powers, Richard Rouse, Jerry Rubin, Anna Spier, Robert Torres, Fred Wang

Absent: Tina Chery, Lauren Gabovitch, Phillomin Laptiste, Luis Prado, LaShonda Walker-Robinson

Guests: Carrie Jones, John Snow, Inc. (JSI), Coordinator; Alec McKinney, JSI, Senior Project Director; Valerie Polletta, Health Resources in Action (HRiA), Associate Director, Research & Evaluation; Annie Rushman, HRiA, Senior Associate

Three members of the public were also in attendance.

Welcome

Nancy Kasen, Vice President, Community Benefits and Community Relations, Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH), welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining.

The minutes from the June 23rd Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC) meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Public Comment Period

There were no oral or written public comments shared during this meeting.

Regulatory Updates

Robert Torres, Director of Community Benefits, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), began by reviewing the hospital's regulatory reporting timeline. He explained that regulatory reports are typically due in the spring, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Boston and Massachusetts Attorney General's Office extended the filing deadlines for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Attorney General reports.

As part of regulatory reporting, hospitals report on their annual community benefits expenditures. Robert explained that the Attorney General report required BIDMC to classify community benefits expenditures by program type and by health priority. He provided an example related to the access to care priority; if BIDMC worked to increase access to behavioral health services, access to care would be the program type and behavioral health would be the health priority.

Informed by the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), BIDMC's Community Benefits health priorities are Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Use), Chronic Disease Management and Prevention (cancer, heart disease, asthma, diabetes, other chronic illnesses), Housing Stability/Homelessness, and Additional Health Needs. One member asked for clarification on what is included in "Additional Health Needs". Robert explained that there are multiple programs related to the social determinants of health (SDOH) that would fall in that category, such as violence prevention programming.

After highlighting the health priorities, Robert reviewed a breakdown of community benefits expenditures in Fiscal Year 2019, which totaled \$27.8 million. He noted that the funds broken out by program type and by health priority totaled the same amount. The Community Benefits reporting guidelines from the Attorney General's Office also include Health Safety Net payments and leveraged resources, increasing the reportable total of Community Benefits expenditures from \$27.8 million to \$46 million.

Health Priorities

Nancy then spoke about efforts to align Community Benefits strategies and metrics across all 10 BILH hospitals. BILH Community Benefits and Community Relations departments worked to identify strategies that all of the hospitals will focus on, collect data on, and report on. Nancy explained that in order for a health priority and related strategies to be selected, they need to be prevalent across most if not all of the BILH hospitals, identify SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely) goals, be evidence-based/informed, and identify an existing (external) benchmark and/or enable hospitals to compare their performance against a BILH-wide benchmark. In the future, the hospitals plan to collect data on community benefits programs quarterly to share with each hospital's CBAC regularly.

To identify the BILH health priorities, the Community Benefits and Community Relations teams from all 10 hospitals came together to discuss existing priorities and programs. The aim was to balance the need for hospitals to continue to honor their existing partnerships while also working to strengthen program impact across the BILH system. While specific programs would not be mandated, data collection and measurements will be streamlined.

Through a collaborative process, the three BILH-wide health priorities selected were Social Determinants of Health (food insecurity, digital access), Behavioral Health (mental health and substance use), and Chronic and Complex Conditions (heart disease, diabetes, and cancer). One CBAC member asked if these health priorities were different than the ones the CBAC worked on for the Determination of Need (DoN) funds. Nancy explained that while the priorities are similar, this effort is focused more broadly on Community Benefits programs outside specific DoN funding streams.

Digital access was identified as an emerging health need in the SDOH category. Nancy asked the CBAC to weigh in with their thoughts on the relative importance of digital access to the community. Many CBAC members agreed that this was an emerging need. Members explained that access to digital tools has value beyond the health care sector, as it can be important for gaining stable employment, enrolling in food access programs, for education, and many other aspects of residents' lives. Several members also highlighted challenges for specific populations, including older people and non-English speakers. Many members shared that there are existing organizations working on this effort. Nancy thanked everyone for sharing their insights on the topic of digital access and told them they can email the Community Benefits team if they have any additional information to share.

Nancy then shared the timeline for aligning the health priorities over the next year. Next steps include finalizing the priorities and strategies and amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Implementation Strategy.

Following this, the health priorities strategies will be implemented at each hospital and metrics will be shared with the BILH Community Benefits Committee. Lastly, each hospital will collect baseline data and will report on the new indicators to their hospital CBAC's.

Community-based Health Initiative Updates

Robert began by giving a brief overview on the status of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Community-based Health Initiative (CHI). The RFP Letter of Intent (LOI) application, released in early August 2020, was closed on August 28th, 2020. A total of 95 organizations applied across the three funding tracks and the three health priority areas (Housing Affordability, Jobs & Financial Security, and Behavioral Health). Robert shared that there were multiple strong applications, making it a very competitive selection process. In the end, a total of 38 organizations were invited back to submit a full proposal for 16 possible grant opportunities.

Anna Spier, Manager of Community Benefits, BIDMC, provided an update on the fourth CHI funding area, Healthy Neighborhoods. Anna began by thanking five members of the CBAC who volunteered to be on a Healthy Neighborhoods workgroup to inform the process for this initiative. She then reminded the group that Healthy Neighborhoods will provide equal amounts of funding to each of the focus neighborhoods for the RFP: the Boston neighborhoods of Allston/Brighton, Bowdoin/Geneva, Chinatown, Fenway/Kenmore, Mission Hill, and Roxbury, and the City of Chelsea. This funding will be used to build neighborhood and resident capacity and facilitate collective action to address neighborhood-specific concerns.

BIDMC wants to ensure that the Healthy Neighborhoods grantees are held to similar standards as the CHI RFP. Anna then presented the criteria that will be used to determine if a future project/grantee is eligible to be funded. The criteria fell into four main categories: project alignment, community engagement and communication, project/program implementation, and evaluation. Anna proceeded to share a high-level overview of the process. BIDMC will issue a RFP for each neighborhood over the next several years. Neighborhood coalitions or a group of organizations that represent a variety of sectors will apply to be the backbone organization for this initiative. This group will need to commit to transparency and other requirements and will be selected by a subset of the Allocation Committee. The selected coalition would then engage the community in choosing a project(s) to fund that meets BIDMC's criteria that was shared previously. BIDMC believes that issuing an RFP for each neighborhood is the most effective and transparent route to take in order to disburse funds equitably. Anna explained that this will be an iterative process, which will allow for learning and improvement over time. One member voiced a concern about members of the selected coalitions, which are often associated with community-based organizations, and being favored for funding. Anna noted the concern and explained that multiple sectors will be required to be involved and that the RFP will be written to facilitate a fair and transparent selection process.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Robert then briefly reviewed BIDMC's Conflict of Interest (COI) policy. The goal of the COI is to protect the integrity of the CBAC. CBAC members are asked to disclose volunteer or governance roles, compensation arrangements, and/or material ownership or investment interests. Robert noted that these disclosures are not necessarily conflicts of interest but it is good practice to disclose, though disclosure will not necessarily preclude CBAC participation. The Community Benefits team will send out the COI forms once they are updated for Fiscal Year 2021.

Adjourn

Robert thanked the attendees for joining and reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting is December 15 from 5-7 pm.