

Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC)
Annual Community Benefits Public Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Held Virtually Via Zoom

Present: Alberte Altine-Gibson, Walter Armstrong, Maia Betts, Elizabeth (Liz) Browne, Alexandra Chery Dorrelus, Shondell Davis, Lauren Gabovitch, Richard Giordano, Jamie Goldfarb, Nancy Kasen, Barry Keppard, Kira Khazatsky, Angie Liou, Sandy Novack, Alex Oliver-Dávila, Kelina (Kelly) Orlando, Joanne Pokaski, Triniese Polk, Robert Torres, LaShonda Walker-Robinson, Fred Wang

Absent: Flor Amaya, James Morton, Jane Powers, Richard Rouse, Anna Spier

Guests: Annie Rushman, Health Resources in Action (HRiA), Senior Associate; Karina Teixeira, YMCA of Greater Boston, Executive Director of Teen Development; Jessica Colon, YMCA of Greater Boston Operations Director of Teen Development; YMCA Youth Advisors

Welcome and Introductions

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

The minutes from the September 28th CBAC meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Public Comment

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

Annual Updates

Robert Torres, Boston Region Director of Community Benefits, Beth Israel Lahey Health, provided an update on the Conflicts of Interest (COI) Policy and Disclosure statement. The purpose of the COI disclosure statement is to protect the integrity of the CBAC's decision-making process. The COI disclosure statement is not required by any regulatory body, but Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) considers it a best practice. The disclosure asks CBAC members to acknowledge volunteer or governance roles, compensation arrangements, material ownership, or investment interests that may present a conflict. This statement is completed by each member upon joining the CBAC, annually, and ad hoc as a person's situation changes.

Robert then introduced the annual Community Representative Feedback Form. Every year the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General asks individuals who are engaged in a hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and/or Implementation Strategy to fill out the form to describe how the hospital has engaged the community in assessing and addressing health needs that were documented in the most recent CHNA. Robert shared that responses help shape BIDMC's Community Benefits programs. Robert shared that members are to report on engagement related to the execution of the Implementation Strategy, as the CHNA was completed in 2019. Robert provided an overview of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Continuum of Community Engagement, which highlights various levels of community involvement ranging from inform (lowest level) to community-driven/led (highest level). Robert provided examples of community engagement and explained how they might be

classified along the continuum. It was explained that BIDMC's goal is to move towards higher levels of the continuum, as appropriate.

Robert shared that BIDMC will be updating the CBAC Charter to reflect changes over the past year. Changes to the Charter will be shared later in the year.

FY22 Community Health Needs Assessment

BIDMC Youth Advisors

Jamie Goldfarb, Program Administrator of Community Benefits, BIDMC, shared that the Community Benefits Department is partnering with the YMCA at Egleston Square to increase youth participation in the CHNA. She shared that BIDMC feels it is important that youth have a meaningful seat at the table when discussing health needs and opportunities in their community.

Over the past four months the Youth Advisors have been learning about the CHNA process, and social determinants of health (SDOH). Youth introduced themselves and shared where they live within BIDMC's Community Benefits Service Area (CBSA). Each youth identified assets within their community ranging from accessibility of parks and restaurants to the different cultures they see in their neighborhood. The Youth Advisors then highlighted opportunities they see in their communities which included increasing safety in schools, greater access to affordable housing and to supermarkets, and reopening a community park. In the upcoming months, the Youth Advisors will administer surveys they designed to help in identifying community needs and solutions.

A member of the CBAC asked the Youth Advisors if anything surprised them during this process. One student shared that they learned that there are a total of 8,000 people living in Mission Hill and 4,000 of them are living under the poverty level. Another shared how they learned that the SDOHs can positively or negatively impact a community. One CBAC member pointed out that many times community assessments only highlight the negative aspects of a community. This member asked the Youth Advisors how they felt seeing the positive areas of their community. Many of the Youth Advisors shared that they enjoyed seeing both the positive aspects and opportunities in their community. One member asked how COVID-19 impacted the way they viewed their community. The Youth Advisors shared that through the pandemic they saw positives such as access to vaccines, and negatives such as people with limited food access.

Jamie thanked the Youth Advisors for sharing their findings, and told the CBAC the Youth Advisors will be presenting to the Advisory Committee again later in 2022.

CHNA Preliminary Findings

Nancy shared that to date, BIDMC has conducted 16 key informant interviews, held five focus groups, collected multiple forms of secondary data, and began distributing the Youth Advisors survey. Nancy provided a brief overview of BIDMC's CBSA which includes Lexington, Chestnut Hill, Needham, Brookline, the city of Chelsea, and the Boston neighborhoods of Allston/Brighton, Bowdoin-Geneva, Chinatown, Fenway/Kenmore, Mission Hill, and Roxbury. During this process BIDMC has engaged with a wide range of local organizations, in addition to being a part of regional efforts such as the Boston Community Health Needs Assessment-Community Health Improvement Plan Collaborative and the North Suffolk Public Health Collaborative.

Nancy then provided a high-level overview of the population changes from 2010 to 2020 based on U.S. Census data. All neighborhoods in BIDMC's CBSA increased in population size, with the highest

population increase being in the city of Chelsea. The data also showed a decrease over the past ten years of the White and Black/African Americans populations in BIDMC's CBSA.

Nancy then shared the preliminary themes from the initial data collection efforts. Nancy noted that this information is not final, and BIDMC will learn more over the next few months. The first theme identified was SDOH. Primary concerns identified included lack of affordable housing, economic insecurity, food insecurity, and various SDOH issues that inhibit access to care (e.g., transportation, internet access). The second theme identified was diversity, equity, and inclusion. Nancy shared that during recent community engagement, there has been significant recognition of how trauma, stress, anxiety associated with racism, and discrimination affect health. The third theme identified was youth and adult mental health. Throughout recent primary data collection efforts, many expressed how COVID-19 has exacerbated anxiety, stress, depression and isolation. The final theme identified was access to care. Data highlighted that difficulty accessing care was often associated with long wait times, lack of providers, cost/insurance, language barriers, and immigration status.

Nancy then asked the CBAC to share their reflections on the preliminary findings. CBAC members agreed with the preliminary findings, reflecting that there is a need to increase culturally appropriate care, especially for mental health. A member shared that there is still stigma around mental health in some communities, and people may be more likely to seek care if services are embedded within community organizations and not just within healthcare facilities. Nancy noted that this was the first-time in BIDMC's CHNA history where mental health was identified as a more pressing or greater need than substance use. Nancy asked members what they thought. CBAC members reflected that it could be because there is such a strong need for mental health care and that many people associate mental health and substance synonymously.

Nancy asked CBAC members for additional thoughts and advice as the CHNA process continues. One member mentioned that it is very important to share BIDMC's intentions in holding Community Listening Sessions, and collecting data in general, as the process continues. They shared that communities are always asked to provide information, and many times they do not see how it is used. Many CBAC members agreed with this recommendation. Another idea shared was to compare themes from BIDMC's 2019 CHNA with the findings from this needs assessment.

Nancy thanked everyone for a thoughtful discussion. She shared that there will be more information to share at the next CBAC meeting.

Healthy Neighborhood Initiative

Susan Putnins, Evaluation Consultant, MXM Research Group, provided a brief overview on their role as the independent evaluator in BIDMC's Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative (HNI).

During the planning phase, a set of questions were designed to evaluate how collectives were working together to achieve their goal and ensure a diverse set of voices and perspectives were included. These questions were utilized to evaluate community meetings, surveys, and key information interviews.

Susan then provided a brief overview of "Healthy Bowdoin Geneva". The Collective was made up of 17 people from organizations and the community. This Collective opted to utilize the planning phase funds to hire an outside facilitator to support community engagement. The Collective held in-person community meetings, focus groups, and conducted a survey. Susan also provided a brief overview of "We're Here for You: Fenway/Kenmore". The Collective is comprised of 12 members from organizations and the community. Instead of opting to receive a planning grant, Fenway CDC and Fenway Health partnered to

donate in-kind time and resources to lead the community engagement and project design with Fenway Care contributing to outreach and feedback on the plan. The collective held virtual community conversations, focus groups, and conducted a survey. Based on information collected during the process evaluation, both collectives shared that they have formed stronger relationships with each other and the neighborhood.

Now that both projects have started planning their final proposal, Susan shared some draft evaluation questions with the CBAC. She then shared the overall timeline for the project evaluation which includes three phases: evaluation design, data collection, and report & use. Both collectives will complete their projects in August 2023 and will share outcomes at a public meeting hosted by the collectives.

Robert thanked Susan for sharing and then provided HNI next steps. Both collectives will submit their final proposal in December. Once submitted, proposals will be reviewed by BIDMC's Allocation Committee. Robert then shared that the Community Benefits team is working with the Allocation Committee to update the HNI Request for Proposal (RFP) process and will release the second HNI RFP in February for Chinatown and the city of Chelsea. In 2023 BIDMC will release the final HNI RFP for Allston/Brighton, Mission Hill, and Roxbury.

Next Steps

Robert asked the CBAC to help promote and attend the upcoming community listening sessions and asked for recommendations for local community facilitators for these sessions. Robert noted that local facilitators will be provided with training and stipends. He then reminded the CBAC that following the meeting, the Community Benefits team will email the AGO Community Representative Feedback Form and the COI Disclosure Statement. He thanked the attendees for joining the meeting and reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting is March 22, 2022 from 5-7 pm. The 2022 meeting schedule was also shared.