

Beth Israel Lahey Health   
Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center

**Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
Held Virtually Via Zoom**

**Present:** Walter Armstrong, Richard Giordano, Lauren Gabovitch, Jamie Goldfarb, Nancy Kasen, Barry Keppard, Phillomin Laptiste, Angie Liou, Sandy Novack, Holly Oh, MD, Alex Oliver-Davila, Joanne Pokaski, Triniese Polk, Jane Powers, Luis Prado, Richard Rouse, Anna Spier, Robert Torres, LaShonda Walker-Robinson, Fred Wang

**Absent:** Elizabeth (Liz) Browne, Tina Chery, James Morton, Jerry Rubin

**Guests:** Carrie Jones, John Snow, Inc. (JSI), Coordinator; Madison MacLean, JSI, Consultant; Alec McKinney, JSI, Senior Project Director; Danelle Marable, Director of Evaluation and Data, Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH); Valerie Polletta, Health Resources in Action (HRiA), Associate Director, Research & Evaluation; Annie Rushman, HRiA, Senior Associate

### **Welcome**

Nancy Kasen, Vice President, Community Benefits and Community Relations, BILH, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining.

Nancy shared that Luis Prado is retiring from the City of Chelsea's Department of Health and Human Services. She thanked him for his service to the community and for being an active member of the Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC).

Robert Torres, Director of Community Benefits, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), then introduced Shondell Davis as a new member of the CBAC. Shondell was born and raised in Boston, worked for many years in the healthcare industry, and now works with the Cory Johnson Center for Post-Traumatic Healing.

The minutes from the September 22 CBAC meeting were reviewed and accepted.

### **Public Comment Period**

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

### **AGO Community Representative Feedback**

Robert introduced the annual community representative feedback form. He explained it is a two-page form that is filled out by community members that are engaged in a hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment and/or Implementation Strategy. He then reviewed the Massachusetts Department of Public

Health's Continuum of Community Engagement, which highlights various levels of community engagement ranging from inform (lowest level) to community-driven/led (highest level). Robert provided examples of community engagement and explained how they would be classified along the continuum. He shared that the form will ask members to report on engagement related to the execution of the Implementation Strategy. Robert explained that BIDMC's goal is to move towards the higher levels of the continuum, as appropriate, and that the responses from CBAC members will help shape BIDMC's Community Benefits program.

Robert said that members can reach out to the Community Benefits team with any questions. He mentioned that the form is due on January 15, 2021 to the Attorney General's Office and requested that a copy also be sent to him. He confirmed that the Community Benefits team would email the form with the instructions after the meeting.

### **Community-based Health Initiative Update**

Nancy provided a brief overview on the Community-based Health Initiative (CHI). She shared that on December 4, the Community Benefits team announced that 16 Boston-based organizations had been selected to receive funding for projects in the areas of housing affordability, jobs & financial security, and behavioral health. Funding amounts ranged from \$100,000 to \$1 million. She also shared that there was one \$270,000 grant awarded to a behavioral health organization in the City of Chelsea. Nancy explained that the members of the CHI Allocation Committee were guided by five core principles when they reviewed applications: impact, community, health and racial equity, sustainability, and moving upstream. Nancy also shared the breakdown of funds that were allocated to each health priority area, and showed how it closely aligned to the original allocations approved by the CBAC in September 2019.

Members of the Community Benefits team then provided a brief overview of each grantee's proposals, including the priority area(s) each was focusing on.

Jamie Goldfarb, Program Administrator of Community Benefits, BIDMC, then shared that the first two neighborhoods selected to participate in the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative were Bowdoin/Geneva and Fenway/Kenmore. She shared that the Request for Proposals will be released in February 2021, with applications due in March 2021. Selected applicants will then conduct community engagement and develop a project plan that will be reviewed by the Allocation Committee. Jamie explained that this will be an iterative process and the next set of neighborhoods will be announced in 2022.

### **BILH Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force**

Nancy shared that recent events have catalyzed the need for a deeper and broader institutional approach to address inequity and disparities within BILH and the communities it serves. She shared that as the second largest employer in Massachusetts, BILH has a unique responsibility and an outsized ability to positively impact the community through patients and families, employees, and community partners. She explained that although there have been numerous initiatives to address diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), there is now a renewed focus and commitment to achieving sustainable change.

Nancy then provided a brief overview of the task force leading the DEI initiatives and the process undertaken to ensure diverse voices and perspectives were included. Nancy shared that 48 listening sessions were held and over 4,000 employees responded to a system-wide survey. Phillomin (Philly) Laptiste, Executive Director of Bowdoin Street Health Center and Joanne Pokaski, Senior Director of Workforce Development & Community Relations at BIDMC shared the DEI Task Force's final

recommendations. They reviewed the Task Force's recommended actions in the areas of infrastructure, culture and leadership, talent, patient care, academics, and community investments.

### **BILH Community Benefits Committee (CBC) Program Priorities**

Anna Spier, Manager of Community Benefits, BIDMC, reminded the CBAC that they discussed the health priorities selected by the BILH Community Benefits Committee (CBC) at the September meeting. Nancy shared the CBAC's views about food insecurity and housing being pressing needs in the community with the CBC. The CBC endorsed the recommendation to add these as two priorities in the category of social determinants of health. Anna then provided examples of the goals that will be used to measure impact in each of the priority areas. She explained that moving forward, BILH will be moving towards collecting more outcome-based measures. BILH recently hired a Director of Evaluation and Data that will help support data collection efforts for Community Benefits.

### **Evaluation**

Valerie Polletta, Associate Director of Research & Evaluation at Health Resources in Action (HRiA), shared that as a part of the evaluation plan, HRiA created a voluntary and anonymous survey to evaluate the CBAC's process related to the CHI. Time was dedicated to filling out the online survey during the meeting. For members not in attendance, a link to the survey was emailed after the meeting.

### **Adjourn**

Jamie reminded the CBAC that the Community Benefits team will email the Attorney General's Community Representative Feedback Form after the meeting. Additionally, the annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure form will be emailed out. She shared that the Community Benefits team will reach out to orient new members who have not completed this form before.

Jamie thanked the attendees for joining and reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting is March 23, 2021 from 5-7 pm.