

Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Held Virtually Via Zoom

Present: Elizabeth (Liz) Browne, Alexandra Chery Dorrelus, Shondell Davis, Pamela Everhart, Pat Folcarelli, Richard Giordano, Shantel Gooden, Nancy Kasen, Barry Keppard, Angie Liou, Amy Nishman, Sandy Novack, Alex Oliver-Dávila, Kelina (Kelly) Orlando, Triniese Polk, Jane Powers, Emmanuella René, Anna Spier, Robert Torres, LaShonda Walker-Robinson, Fred Wang

Absent: Flor Amaya, Lynne Courtney, Lauren Gabovitch, Richard Rouse, Samantha Taylor

Guests: Jarrod Dore, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC); Annie Rushman, Health Resources in Action (HRiA)

Welcome

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

Nancy thanked Jane Foley for her service on the Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC) and welcomed Pat Folcarelli, Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at BIDMC to the CBAC as the new senior leadership designee.

The minutes from the June 27th 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.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute / BIDMC Cancer Collaboration Update

Jarrod Dore, Vice President of Capital Facilities and Engineering at BIDMC, provided an update on the development of the proposed new Dana-Farber Cancer Institute building and collaboration with BIDMC. He shared images of the proposed site, a cross-section view of the proposed building, massing/height and a high-level summary of key milestones. He also highlighted the collaborative efforts with City of Boston entities regarding possible ways to connect the building to BIDMC's campus.

Committee members asked questions regarding the building's size, height, and Determination of Need process. Jarrod explained that some answers are dependent on the regulatory process and that he would provide additional updates to the CBAC when they are available.

Community Benefits and Community-based Health Initiative (CHI) Updates

Robert Torres, Boston Region Director of Community Benefits and Community Relations, presented a dashboard with Community Benefits updates for Fiscal Year 2023. He highlighted grant funding by priority area as well as the number of organizations awarded funding and the number of people reached through funding. He also shared information about BILH CBCR efforts, including evaluation workshops attended by community members, staff trainings on community engagement and launching *Community Connections* newsletters at each BILH hospital. Metrics demonstrating BILH's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion were also shared.

Robert then reviewed the Community Representative Feedback Form that is required annually by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO). He explained the different sections and noted that responses from CBAC members help inform BIDMC's Community Benefits program and future AGO Community Benefits guidelines.

Next, Anna Spier, Manager of Community Benefits at BIDMC, shared an update on the Community-based Health Initiative (CHI). She shared that the grant period for the first cohort of Boston grantees ends on December 31st and noted that much of the work had taken place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. She then highlighted specific examples of how grantees had successfully addressed priority needs such as youth employment, housing stability and behavioral health.

One CBAC member inquired about whether funding was used to continue existing projects or to fund new ones. Anna responded that funds supported the expansion of existing projects and new initiatives, as required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Anna then reminded the CBAC that a comprehensive report would be shared in late winter or early spring.

Anna then shared that the final cohort of Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative collectives, representing the neighborhoods of Allston/Brighton, Mission Hill and Roxbury, had developed project proposals that were reviewed and approved by the Allocation Committee in October.

BILH Behavioral Health Access Priority

Nancy Kasen shared that BILH worked with all 10 hospitals to identify Behavioral Health Access as a system-level priority. She stated that the goal is for BILH to serve as a bridge to partnership by promoting access and facilitating engagement to timely, appropriate behavioral health services, with a special emphasis on serving those disproportionately impacted and who face disparities in behavioral health access. Working with John Snow, Inc. and building on the findings from the Community Health Needs Assessment, BILH conducted formative research to identify next steps. Nancy shared key themes from meetings with Community Behavioral Health Centers (CBHCs), key informant interviews and focus groups. She said that the BILH Community Benefits Committee considered four interventions and that they selected behavioral health navigator programs for implementation.

Nancy spoke about the importance of upstream interventions to destigmatize behavioral health and reach individuals before crises arise by bridging organizational gaps and expanding knowledge about CBHCs and the services they provide. Nancy also mentioned the success of behavioral health task forces and community coalitions in helping to connect people to community-based care and services to meet behavioral health needs across Massachusetts.

The CBAC discussed the interventions and provided additional ideas for consideration.

CBAC Engagement

Robert initiated a discussion about the CBAC annual meeting and provided a brief overview of past annual meetings. He reminded the CBAC that while all of BIDMC's CBAC meetings are open to the public, the AGO recommends that one meeting be broader and promoted to community residents. He invited input from the CBAC about how to increase participation and make future annual meetings more engaging. CBAC members offered specific suggestions, such as sharing results and lessons learned from funded partnerships, creating a short video, and leveraging social media platforms.

Adjourn

Anna thanked the attendees for joining the meeting and reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting is March 26, 2024, from 5-7 p.m.