



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, June 7, 2012**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the Boston Public Health Commission (“Commission”) was held on Thursday, June 7, 2012 in the Hayes Conference Room at the Commission’s offices at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 2nd floor, Boston, MA 02118.

Board Members Present:

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH, Chair
Ruth Ellen Fitch, JD
Harold Cox
Jack Cradock

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH
Kathleen Walsh
Celia Wcislo

Also Present Were:

Barbara Ferrer, Huy Nguyen, John Townsend, Nakisha Skinner, Pam Jones, Chuck Gagnon, Lisa Conley, Nick Martin, Roy Martin, Nicole Daley, Alberte Altine, Raia Warfield, Anita Barry, Yanik Ruiz-Ramon, Stephanie Doyle, Tim Harrington, Michael SooHoo, Gerry Thomas, Aliza Wasserman, Catherine Fine, Jeanne Cannata, , Lisa Peterson, Sharyn Imonti, Anelie Pierre, Deborah Allen

Visitors:

Barbara Lottero, Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center; Patricia Edraos, Scott Mason, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; Nichelle Allen-Welch, Boston Medical Center; Rubin Baiar, Cara Russo, Jeanette Livelio, Kalei Ensminger, Donna Kulig, Gabreil Yesoah, Eugenia Wilinon, Ashley Birch, Sarah Carrigan, Kim Hayes, Erin Coauciey, Andea Sablusky, Regis College; Brendan Kearney, Boston EMS; Katherine Tudor, Genesis Diaz, Raudy Perez, Daniel Hernandez, Jennifer Then, Katie Acker, Katherine Tucker, Sociedad Latina; Francilia Jones, Vanessa Medor, Jewel Douglas, Chauntelle Jones, BOLD Teens

Proceedings:

Chairwoman’s Comments
Paula Johnson, MD, MPH

- The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. The minutes of the board meeting held on May 10, 2012 were approved.

Executive Director's Report

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

- Dr. Ferrer invited the Board to the Commission's annual Family BBQ on August 18, 2012.
- Dr. Ferrer noted that an update on the Northampton Square ("NHS") Redevelopment Project was included in the Board packet. Also, Trinity's tax credit application was denied but Trinity will file a petition to continue the process.
- Board Member Cox asked if the NHS concerns raised previously had been addressed and Nakisha Skinner, General Counsel, shared that an update went out to South End Fitness Center ("SEFC") members and approximately one dozen responded with further comments.
- At the Boston City Council Budget Hearing, the Council raised questions about the NHS project in response to constituent calls. Although Trinity has kept the Council informed, the Council requested that the Commission continue to update them as well.
- Chairwoman Johnson requested more information on a private development project for the homeless she read about in the newspaper. Dr. Ferrer was not aware of such project and opined that it may be one undertaken by the Pine Street Inn.
- Dr. Ferrer introduced Cynthia Loesch. Ms. Loesch completed her first year of law school and is serving as a Legal Intern with General Counsel this summer.
- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") Community Transformation Grant was approved but not funded. There is a new opportunity available to small communities of not more than 500,000. The Commission will apply on behalf of the communities in the city with populations that are greatly impacted by obesity and tobacco related illnesses i.e. Hyde Park, Mattapan, Roxbury, Dorchester, East Boston, Charlestown, South Boston and Jamaica Plain.
- Support from the Department of Public Health ("DPH") for the Data Sharing bill is lacking. Chairwoman Johnson recommended that Board Members reach out to DPH Commissioner John Auerbach to figure out what the concerns are and how to address them. Board Member Cox asked about the Home Rule Petition and Dr. Ferrer stated it was a suggestion limited to Boston to prevent data sharing from becoming an issue.

Boston Community Health Centers: 2010 Data/ Impact Snapshot

Barbara Lottero, R.N., M.S., Executive Director, Greater Roslindale Medical and Dental Center and Co-Chair of the Boston Conference of Community Health Centers

- Barbara Lottero shared that the Boston Community Health Centers ("BCHC") enjoy partnering with the Commission especially around Tobacco Control efforts and the Neighbor Care initiative. Ms. Lottero thanked Gerry Thomas, Community Initiatives Bureau Director, and Pam Jones, Director of Policy and Planning, for their support of BCHC.
- 25 independently and hospital licensed health centers make up the BCHC Conference. Ms. Lottero highlighted the number and types of community health center visits; patient age, race and ethnicity; insurance coverage status; and workforce from the 2010 data. Community health center visits were roughly 66% for medical visits, and 12% for dental visits. About 67% of the patients were between the ages of 20-64; 43% white, 24% black and 15% asian. About 37% were covered by MassHealth/Medicaid, 8% Medicare, almost 8% were covered by other public care resources like CommCare, 26% by private insurance and 21% were uninsured.
- Board Member Cradock explained the large number of uninsured despite statistics that 98% of MA residents are insured. He stated there are a number of people without insurance, pending insurance or without proper documentation. East Boston Neighborhood Health Center, for example, has about 30% uninsured.
- Ms. Lottero stated that community health centers are economic engines that support the local community, by hiring and purchasing goods and services. In 2010, BCHC employed 5,530 individuals with 3,754 of them as full time equivalents.

- Board Member Cox asked about the challenge for health centers to provide pediatric dental services. Patricia Edraos responded that pediatric dentists are not common and they may not take MassHealth.
- Chairwoman Johnson asked about the increase and/or decrease in the number of patients through 2010. Ms. Lottero responded there has been an increase in patients. Patricia Edraos, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers (“MLCHC”), responded that health centers have increased dental care services. Chairwoman Johnson requested a data presentation next year of statistics over time.

Division on Violence Prevention Programs: Update and Summer Plans

Catherine Fine, Director, Violence Prevention Division

Stephanie Doyle, Director, Defending Childhood Initiative

Nicole Daley, Program Manager, Start Strong, Domestic Violence Prevention

Alberte Altine, Director of the Division of Violence Prevention, Domestic Violence Prevention

Roy Martin, Youth Development Specialist, Youth Development Network

Lisa Peterson, Policy Analyst, Domestic Violence Prevention

- Catherine Fine introduced the Division on Violence Prevention Programs (“DVPP”) team.
- Stephanie Doyle shared that the Defending Childhood Initiative is funded by the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) for \$2 million over 2 years. Its goal is to prevent and reduce the impact and exposure to violence in homes, schools and communities for children between the ages of 0-17. Ms Doyle discussed the 65 community agency collaborative and a 5 part strategic plan which includes: (1) creating a training institute; (2) supporting 6 organizations in administering family nurturing programs; (3) creating a marketing campaign; (4) providing direct services to children in 2 health centers; and (5) advocating for policies to promote trauma-informed systems. Summer efforts include a resiliency-focused training for summer camp staff with Life is Good Foundation Playmakers (formerly Project Joy) and evidence based practice trainings with mental health clinicians. Chairwoman Johnson requested identification of the camps. Ms. Doyle responded the camps are part of the Boston Center for Youth and Families (“BCYF”), and enrichment centers within the city of Boston.
- Nicole Daley shared that the Start Strong Boston Initiative is focused on engaging men and boys in preventing dating and sexual violence. It is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a 3.5 year initiative with the goal to reach 2,500 youth with healthy relationship messaging. Ms. Daley shared that they were also awarded the Engaging Men in Boys funding from the DOJ to reach young men through a media campaign. This summer, the 2012 Break Up Summit: Cheating and Healthy Break-Ups will be held at Simmons College on July 26, 2012. Chairwoman Johnson asked if Simmons College is a partner. Ms. Daley responded that Simmons College is interested in connecting Start Strong to their programs. Board Member Cox thanked Ms. Daley for the violence prevention presentation at Boston University.
- Alberte Altine shared that the Violence Intervention Prevention (“VIP”) initiative is within 5 high risk neighborhoods in the city of Boston and partners with Project RIGHT, Madison Park Development Corporation and Mattapan, Uphams Corner and Bowdoin Street Health Centers. The goals are to build neighborhood coalitions; increase access to youth employment; reduce crime; ensure access to services; coordinate community responses to violent crime; and promote peace. Some of the successes include engaging about 1,675 youth in VIP events; and registering 175 youth for Hopeline summer jobs. Ms. Altine shared that the CDC planning and implementation grant, STRYVE (“Striving to Reduce Youth Violence”), is in its 1st year of 5. Presently, residents are conducting planning and visioning sessions to identify a violence prevention project.
- Roy Martin shared that Partners Advancing Communities Together (“PACT”) is a multi disciplinary approach to reduce violent crime using enforcement with the Boston Police Department (“BPD”) and coordinated services with the Commission. The BPD identified 296 individuals most likely to be a victim or perpetrator of violent crime and PACT connects them to service providers. Presently, 25 PACT clients were referred to employment services and 7 to education services. Lisa Peterson shared that PACT was awarded \$2.26 million

from the Governor's Safe and Successful Youth Initiative. Chairwoman Johnson asked if there has been an upstream analysis of the 296 individuals to understand the source of the issues. Ms. Peterson responded that housing, educational and employment data is collected cross sectionally and not longitudinally. Board Member Cox asked what PACT is trying to accomplish and what progress has been made. Ms. Peterson responded making services more accessible. Board Member Cox asked if there was an age requirement and if the clients were voluntary. Mr. Martin responded that the average age is 22 years old and clients are not mandated to participate. Chairwoman Johnson requested PACT return to the Board and present on what success looks like as well as a collection of near misses.

Youth Advisory Council

Michael SooHoo, Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Policy and Planning

Raia Warfield, Project Manager, Training and Development, Child Adolescent and Family Health Bureau

- Raia Warfield shared that the Youth Advisory Council ("YAC") is in its 1st year. YAC brings together youth organizations to identify and propose policies, initiatives and programs that support healthy youth development and to advise the Commission and the Board on health issues affecting youth.
- Michael SooHoo introduced the partner organizations. YAC youth are between the ages of 14-21, active in their organizations and are leaders. Dr. Ferrer explained that the invitation to join the YAC was based on an organization's experience in youth work. Board Member Cox asked the YAC to stand to be recognized.
- Raia Warfield and Michael SooHoo provided a recap of YAC efforts: an orientation was held at the end of 2011; YAC members were introduced to Dr. Ferrer and the BPHC's overarching goals at the start of 2012; YAC members received informative presentations from several BPHC Programs, including Start Strong, Boston Tobacco Control, and the Healthy Baby Healthy Child; and YAC generated a list of suggestions for the Commission in the spring of 2012.
- Francilia Jones and Vanessa Medor, BOLD Teens, presented YAC's suggestions for the Commission.
- Board Member Cox commended the youth for providing the suggestions. Board Member Fitch emphasized the importance of one particular suggestion to increase Commission and Board visibility. Chairwoman Johnson thanked the YAC and stated the suggestions will be reviewed and considered.
- Certificates from the Board were presented to YAC members and a group photo was taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m. and the YAC celebration for the youth followed.

Submitted By:

Cynthia K. Loesch, Secretary