

**Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 27, 2023, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**  
**Held Virtually Via Zoom**

**Present:** Elizabeth (Liz) Browne, Lynne Courtney, Shondell Davis, Pamela Everhart, Lauren Gabovitch, Richard Giordano, Shantel Gooden, Nancy Kasen, Barry Keppard, Sandy Novack, Alex Oliver-Dávila, Kelina (Kelly) Orlando, Triniese Polk, Jane Powers, Richard Rouse, Anna Spier, Samantha Taylor, Robert Torres, LaShonda Walker-Robinson, Fred Wang

**Absent:** Flor Amaya, Alexandra Chery Dorrelus, Jane Foley, Angie Liou, Amy Nishman

**Guests:** Kristin Mikolowsky, Health Resources in Action (HRiA) and one member of the public

**Welcome**

Nancy Kasen, Vice President, Community Benefits and Community Relations (CB.CR), welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining. Nancy then reviewed the agenda.

The minutes from the March 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FY23 Community Benefits Dashboard and Implementation Strategy Update**

Anna Spier, Manager of Community Benefits shared the CB.CR department's guiding principles and reiterated that they provide a roadmap for the department. Anna then highlighted BIDMC's Community Benefits data dashboard that helps provide insight into the impact and work of the department. Anna highlighted the external funding payments made between October 2022 and March 2023 and that the chart does not encompass all funds that have been awarded to Community-based Health Initiative (CHI) grantees. One member asked why the Complex and Chronic Conditions priority area received less funding compared to the other health priorities. Nancy explained that many of BIDMC's affiliated community health centers, while currently captured in the Equitable Access to Care category, also address Complex and Chronic Conditions. She shared that the CB.CR team will consider alternative ways to capture expenditures by priority area for future iterations of the dashboard. Nancy also noted that the graph only highlights external funding, and that there are a multitude of internal programs that address Complex and Chronic Conditions.

Anna then highlighted new partnerships and hospital initiatives that began during the six-month period.

**Community-based Health Initiative (CHI) Updates**

Robert Torres, Boston Region Director of Community Benefits, shared that on June 15, 2023, the CB.CR Department held a Community Grants Open House at BIDMC's new Klarman Building. BIDMC leadership and staff, community members, and local organizations gathered to view digital posterboards created by 28 different organizations. Robert also stated that the final CHI Request for Proposals (RFP) for the priority areas of Housing Affordability, Jobs and Financial Security, and Behavioral Health was publicized at the event.

Robert then provided a high-level overview of the CHI funding awarded as of April 2023. He shared that the final Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative (HNI) collectives for Allston/Brighton, Mission Hill, and

Roxbury were selected in April 2023. Over the next few months, these HNI collectives will be conducting community engagement activities and developing a project plan based on the results of their engagement.

Robert shared that the final CHI RFP for \$7.25 million was released to the public on June 6th and an information session was held on June 27th. Nancy explained that BIDMC remains committed to making funding decisions according to the priority areas and allocation percentages determined by the CBAC in 2019. BIDMC's final RFP for CHI funding aims to align as closely as possible with the allocation percentages for Housing Affordability (40%), Jobs & Financial Security (30%), and Behavioral Health (15%). Nancy noted that after careful consideration and the CB.CR Department's experience working with the Allocation Committee to award prior CHI grants, BIDMC believes that it may not be feasible to satisfy the sub-priority allocations and conduct a transparent process. Nancy explained that the selected priorities are interwoven and often address multiple sub-priorities, necessitating a subjective allocation of the percentages for each sub-priority. She also shared that the the CB.CR team and the BIDMC Allocation Committee is committed to funding applications that present the opportunity for the greatest impact and that it is difficult to do this while also adhering to the granular sub-priority allocations. She explained that while the CB.CR team will provide the Allocation Committee with information about the sub-priorities selected by applicants and the allocations determined by the CBAC, BIDMC does not believe it is in the best interest of the guiding principles of the RFP to "force" alignment with the outlined sub-priorities. Many CBAC members appreciated the transparency around the allocations and agreed that they would not want to restrict project selection based on the sub-priority allocations.

### **CBAC Discussion: Meeting Location**

Jamie Goldfarb, Program Administrator for Community Benefits, shared that the team is considering holding one to two CBAC meetings per year in person. December 2022 CBAC survey results showed that 7.1% of respondents strongly agreed they were interested in meeting in person and 71.4% agreed they would be interested in meeting in person. Some CBAC members shared that they would be interested in meeting in person, particularly at a community site, and would find it beneficial to meet only when a decision needs to be made or there was a more substantial discussion on the agenda. Others noted that schedules could make it difficult to attend in person and asked about the possibility of holding hybrid meetings. Jamie shared that the team would explore options for hybrid meetings as a next step.

### **CBAC Member Stories**

Anna explained that this portion of the meeting was an opportunity to get to know each other since members have not been gathering in person for CBAC meetings. Shondell Davis and Liz Browne each shared information about their personal and professional backgrounds.

Anna stated that this segment would be a standing agenda item until all CBAC members have had an opportunity to share their background.

### **Adjourn**

Anna thanked the attendees for joining the meeting and reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting is September 19, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. Jamie Goldfarb then shared that she will be transitioning out of her role at BIDMC, and her last day would be July 11<sup>th</sup>.