

Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC)
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)
Tuesday, May 24, 2022
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Held Via Zoom

Present: Flor Amaya, Elizabeth (Liz) Browne, Shondell Davis, Richard Giordano, Barry Keppard, Danelle Marable, Marsha Maurer, Sandy Novack, Kelina (Kelly) Orlando, Trinieste Polk, Jane Powers, Anna Spier, Robert Torres, LaShonda Walker-Robinson, Fred Wang

Absent: Maia Betts, Alexandra Chery Dorrelus, Lauren Gabovitch, Nancy Kasen, Kira Khazatsky, Angie Liou, James Morton, Alex Oliver-Dávila, Joanne Pokaski, Richard Rouse

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

Welcome and Introductions

Robert Torres, Director, Community Benefits, BIDMC and Beth Israel Lahey Health (BILH), welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for joining. Robert then reviewed the agenda.

Public Comment

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

FY22 Community Health Needs Assessment and Implementation Strategy

Hospital and System Priorities

Anna Spier, Manager, Community Benefits, BIDMC, reviewed the timeline of the FY22 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and associated FY23-FY25 Implementation Strategy (IS). She shared that in this meeting the CBAC would review final BIDMC prioritized needs and cohorts, the system-level priorities, and strategies for addressing them. She emphasized that the CBAC provides recommendations that will be considered for the FY23-25 IS and that effectively executing these strategies – and seeing progress and impact - requires collaboration among community stakeholders, institutions, and residents.

Anna then discussed how a hospital's Community Benefits strategies should be viewed in the context of coordinated initiatives across sectors to build long-term capacity to improve outcomes and reduce disparities around common health priorities. She reminded the CBAC of the state-wide focus issues that are considered to drive mortality and morbidity, as well as the six identified priorities that the MA Department of Public Health uses to guide Community-based Health Initiative investments, which focus on the social determinants of health.

Next, Anna shared the prioritized needs, sub-priority areas of focus, and prioritized cohorts that were selected based on the themes identified through the FY22 CHNA. She highlighted several differences from the FY19 CHNA, including new sub-priorities of youth mental health and the impacts of trauma. Anna also said that health equity was mentioned explicitly and that strategies for the IS would be selected through an equity lens. Anna explained that mental health/behavioral health had been prioritized by the BILH Board of Trustees Community Benefits Committee as a priority area of focus across the system. This theme was elevated as it is a need seen across all BILH hospitals and BILH and its hospitals are well-positioned to address.

Youth Advisors Presentation

Anna then introduced Jessica Colón from the YMCA of Greater Boston and the Youth Advisors with which BIDMC has been collaborating throughout the CHNA/IS process. One Youth Advisor provided a recap of what they had been working on since the last presentation to the CBAC in December 2021. Other Youth Advisors shared what a health priority was from their point of view, and that they had selected mental health through a diversity, equity, and inclusion lens as the priority they wanted to focus on for the rest of the program. Next, the Youth Advisors reviewed some of the secondary data that supported their priority selection, and shared that the young people had selected peer-to-peer support as a health strategy to address mental health. They discussed what peer-to-peer support meant to them and why it was important to look at mental health through an equity lens. The Youth Advisors then each shared their reflections of the experience and asked the CBAC what they were looking forward to over the summer.

One CBAC member mentioned their enthusiasm for this program and emphasized the importance of including young people in this work because they provide a unique perspective. Another CBAC member thanked the young people for their time and thoughtfulness for what they had done over the year. Other CBAC members provided positive feedback about the presentation and the Youth Advisor's engagement.

Jessica shared that one of the Youth Advisors had been selected to travel to Washington, DC and represent the YMCA of Greater Boston to present a project related to distributing hygiene kits to people experiencing homelessness.

Implementation Strategy

Robert then reviewed BIDMC's considerations for selecting strategies for the FY23-25 IS. For each of the prioritized needs and sub-priorities, he reviewed the draft goals, strategies, and some of the existing partner organizations with which BIDMC collaborates. He also asked the CBAC to help identify specific opportunities or initiatives that BIDMC could support or catalyze. He requested that the CBAC focus their suggestions on areas the hospital could leverage existing impactful work and to share existing impactful initiatives that BIDMC should be aware of.

Robert moderated a robust discussion regarding food insecurity, housing, jobs and financial security, equitable access to care, complex and chronic conditions, and mental health and substance use. CBAC members shared specific models, programs, and organizations they had heard about or with which they have been involved. Several themes emerged through the discussion, including ways BIDMC could consider providing support for policies to address prioritized needs, expanding existing BIDMC programs more broadly in partnership with community organizations, and specific equity considerations related to BIDMC's prioritized cohorts.

Robert thanked the CBAC for their engagement in the discussion and shared that their perspective was valuable as the IS strategies continued to be refined.

Community-based Health Initiative

Anna provided an update on the Community-based Health Initiative (CHI) grantees. She noted that the second cohort of Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative Collectives had been selected and announced (representing Chelsea and the Chinatown neighborhood of Boston). She also mentioned that a Request for Proposals (RFP) would be issued for the remaining three neighborhoods of Allston/Brighton, Mission Hill, and Roxbury in 2023.

Anna then provided a brief update about the cohort of 16 Boston-based grantees and said that BIDMC was planning to hold an event to highlight the grantees' work and impact, likely in 2023. Next, Anna shared a short update on the two current Chelsea-based grantees and noted that a RFP to identify a Housing Affordability grantee in Chelsea would be issued in summer 2022.

One CBAC member asked if there were any early indications of the impact of the current CHI grantees. Anna explained that Health Resources in Action was conducting an overarching evaluation of the CHI grantees to assess their collective impact and that grantees were also sharing program-specific data. She further noted that while there were some promising early results, more information about impacts and lessons learned would be shared with the CBAC as it became available.

Regulatory Update

Robert reviewed a breakdown of Community Benefits expenditures in Fiscal Year 2021, which totaled approximately \$63 million. He noted that the Non-Profit Hospital Community Benefits reporting guidelines from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office allow for the inclusion of Health Safety Net payments and leveraged resources, which are included in the \$63 million. He also provided a few brief highlights of specific programs that were funded under each of the four current Community Benefits priority areas (Social Determinants of Health, Chronic/Complex Conditions and Risk Factors, Behavioral Health, and Access to Care).

Next Steps

Robert said that the full FY 22 CHNA/IS report would be shared with the CBAC by the end of July. He thanked the attendees for joining the meeting and reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting was the annual meeting on June 28, 2022 from 5:00pm -6:00 pm.