

Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Held Virtually Via Zoom

Present: Elizabeth (Liz) Browne, Lynne Courtney, Shondell Davis, Pamela Everhart, Pat Folcarelli, Richard Giordano, Nancy Kasen, Barry Keppard, Angie Liou, Amy Nishman, Sandy Novack, Alex Oliver-Dávila, Triniese Polk, Jane Powers, Emmanuella René, Anna Spier, Samantha Taylor, Robert Torres, LaShonda Walker-Robinson, Fred Wang

Absent: Flor Amaya, Alexandra Chéry Dorrelus, Lauren Gabovitch, Shantel Gooden, Kelina (Kelly) Orlando, Richard Rouse

Guests: Annie Rushman and Kristin Mikolowsky, Health Resources in Action (HRiA). One member of the public was also in attendance.

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 thanked Jane Powers for her service on the Community Benefits Advisory Committee (CBAC) and congratulated Jane on her well-deserved retirement. Nancy then reviewed the agenda.

The minutes from the December 12th CBAC meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Public Comment Period

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

Regulatory Update

Robert Torres, Boston Region Director of Community Benefits and Community Relations, Beth Israel Lahey Health, shared an overview of the annual regulatory reports that Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) files with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, and the City of Boston.

Robert continued by reviewing the goals and strategies outlined in the FY23-25 Implementation Strategy (IS). For each priority area, he shared examples of metrics that are being tracked over the next three years of the IS. He also reviewed the draft FY23 Community Benefits expenditures and examples of programs in each of the priority areas. Committee members asked clarifying questions about the funding allocation and Robert explained that the *Equitable Access to Healthcare* figure included charity care. Robert concluded with a look ahead at some of the goals and programs that BIDMC will focus on in FY24.

Community-based Health Initiative (CHI) Updates

Kristin Mikolowsky, Director of Research and Evaluation at Health Resources in Action (HRiA), reviewed the timeline for the Community-based Health Initiative (CHI). She focused on the impact of Boston Cohort 1, a set of 16 grantees that were funded from 2021 to 2023 to address housing affordability, jobs and financial security and behavioral health. She also shared HRiA's overarching evaluation approach and methods.

Annie Rushman, Associate Director at HRiA, shared that grantees were successful in reaching the CHI priority populations and neighborhoods. Annie explained that despite implementation taking place during

the COVID-19 pandemic and amidst rising inflation, statistically significant improvements were observed across all three of the priority areas. Annie also provided updates on the three grantees funded in Chelsea.

Next, Anna Spier, Manager of Community Benefits, BIDMC, shared an update on the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative. She said that Healthy Bowdoin Geneva and We're Here for You: Fenway/Kenmore completed implementation of their community-driven projects and shared their lessons learned and overall program impact. Committee members said that they were impressed with the work of the collectives and identified with some of their setbacks and challenges.

BILH Behavioral Health Access Priority

Nancy shared BILH's commitment to prioritizing behavioral health access and provided an overview of four initiatives underway. First, she detailed that BILH would amplify existing anti-stigma and education campaigns along with behavioral health resources. Nancy then discussed the development of staff workshops and a toolkit about increasing access to the Massachusetts Behavioral Health system. She also shared that BILH plans to distribute three-year grants to four organizations in Massachusetts Gateway Municipalities – Lynn, Peabody, Haverhill and Quincy.

Nancy spoke about the planned rollout of Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA) for hospital staff and community members. Committee members stated that they saw value in these training courses. Nancy asked for input on who could benefit from the MHFA trainings. Committee members shared suggestions related to outreach, prioritizing training for youth, and offering trainings in other languages. Committee members also suggested specific organizations and cohorts to outreach to such as youth workers, library staff, and immigrant collectives.

CBAC Follow-Up

Anna reviewed the annual meeting suggestions from the December meeting. She shared that BIDMC plans to hold the next Annual Meeting in-person, highlight grantee impacts and lessons learned, and advertise on social media, as suggested.

Adjourn

Anna thanked the attendees for joining the meeting and reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting is June 25, 2024, from 5-7 p.m.