



2015  
**Community Investment**  
Summary  
Report

Boston Alliance *for*  
Community Health

The Boston Alliance for Community Health (BACH) is a partnership of Boston neighborhood coalitions, hospitals, nonprofits and community-based organizations, health centers, government agencies, and residents working to address health disparities, improve a broad spectrum of health outcomes, and achieve health equity.

Our mission is to unite public, private, and non-profit partners in neighborhood-based, data-driven health planning and improvement to influence policymaking, program development, service delivery, and resource allocations that protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all Boston residents. We do this with the support of our volunteer Steering Committee and community partners who are committed to community engagement and racial justice.

In 2014, BACH completed Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP), a community-driven, strategic planning process for improving community health. This extensive process, engaged over 2,000 residents and community partners on both the neighborhood and citywide levels. BACH's members agreed on five Strategic Issues on which to focus its work over the next few years. They are:

1. How can we achieve racial and ethnic health equity?
2. How can we improve coordination and integration of healthcare and community-based prevention activities/services?
3. How can we build and increase resilience in communities impacted by trauma?
4. How can we improve health outcomes by focusing on education, employment, and transportation policies and practices?
5. How can we Increase the number of immigrants, people of color, and other under-represented residents in leadership roles and decision-making processes?



In order to support our mission and vision for a healthier Boston, and move our strategic goals forward, BACH depends on the combined efforts and hard work of our subcommittees. For example, *Health Planning and Improvement* oversees the implementation and evaluation of the MAPP strategic issues and action steps, while *Community Engagement and Membership* is committed to diversifying community partnerships and increase resident involvement around these issues.

The *Community Investment Committee (CIC)* is charged with implementing a funding process based on BACH's strategic goals, priorities, and budget approved annually by the Steering Committee. BACH is able to support community health initiatives through MA Department of Health's Determination of Needs process. With support from Boston's hospitals and medical centers over the past year, BACH was able to award nearly \$200,000 to support strategic issues. This is representative of almost half of BACH's annual budget. In 2014, CIC released two Requests for Proposal to support the strategic issues outlined in the MAPP Report on both the local and citywide levels. Proposals were reviewed and evaluated by community partners and four community grants were rewarded. In addition, BACH provided small grants (\$12,000 each) to five neighborhood coalitions to address one or more of these strategic issues at the neighborhood level. This report summarizes the results of each of these programs.

Coalition  
Support

Community  
Investment

Community  
Grants



Mini-grants, in the amount of \$12,000, were given to BACH- affiliated coalitions to support our strategic issues on the neighborhood level.

Codman Square  
East Boston  
Jamaica Plain  
North Dorchester  
Roxbury  
South Boston



Accomplished many things including:

- Youth distributing 6500 brochures promoting the Fairmont Line and the Talbot Ave. T-stop
- Continued focus on healthy food and beverages including running the Codman Square Farmers Market and getting 2 neighborhood stores to promote healthy beverages
- Successfully getting 6 stores fined for selling tobacco to minors
- Helping install wayfinding signs to increase walking and biking in the neighborhood.

The leadership development work of CSNC continues with BOLD Teens alumnae Shayna Holloway now the adult leader of BOLD Teens and Nebby Stephens, Codman Square Health Center's first pediatric patient and community resident hired as a nurse practitioner at the health center.



Completed an assessment of youth employment programs in Boston, and specifically in JP utilizing a "designing from the margins" framework and identified:

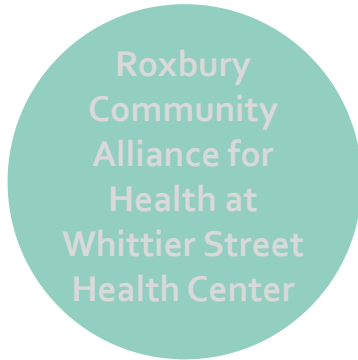
- There were no programs who target undocumented or illiterate youth
- Most programs do not have a mental health component or home visits and are almost all focused on summer employment and for those who speak English





North  
Dorchester  
Coalition

Piloted an anti-violence initiative called PeaceKeepers, which trained 24 youth between the ages of 13-20 over the summer from two sites, Girlz Radio and Project RIGHT. The curriculum developed, used conflict resolution, de-escalation and mediation skills as tools to give young people the power to affect change in their community with adult support. Youth participants were able to use these skills during summer programming and in daily life, when higher instances of violence tend to happen amongst youth in Boston.



Roxbury  
Community  
Alliance for  
Health at  
Whittier Street  
Health Center

Provided 14 youths from the community with employment to participate in their trauma project. Their achievements were measured by the involvement of youth in a project that allowed them to become knowledgeable on the long-term negative effects of trauma, provide psycho-education on trauma to the individuals in their communities they interviewed as well as be active members of a Youth Advisory Board geared at helping them bring their voices and ideas to current issues facing the community. The project also helped them to develop their skills in leadership, advocacy, and community activism. Youth participants were trained on trauma by a community clinician and then were sent out in the community to conduct individual interviews with community members focused on trauma awareness.



South Boston  
Collaborative  
Action  
Network

Accomplishments included:

- Continued leadership in addressing trauma and resilience
- Convening an intensive training on Psychological First Aid which attracted over 140 participants
- Active members of the All Hazards Psychological Trauma Network developed by, the Boston Public Health Commission
- Continued to valiantly address the opioid epidemic and its resultant overdoses and suicides in the neighborhood



In an effort to support citywide initiatives that align with our strategic issues, four grants were given to community-based organizations

**CCHERS**

**JP Tree of Life/  
Arbol de Vida**

**NOAH**

**YouthHub**

***CRITICAL MASS  
TOOLKIT TRAININGS***  
**Center for Community  
Health, Education,  
Research and Services**

## Program Summary

In partnership with many agencies, including BACH-affiliated coalitions, community development corporations, community organizations and organizations from the African –American, Dominican, Cape Verdean, and Somali communities, CCHERS provided training to neighborhood coalitions affiliated with BACH as well as 3 community development corporations, and 3 community based organizations utilizing their tested and applied curriculum, the *Critical MASS Toolkit: Taking Community ACTION on Health Disparities*. The emphasis was on promoting health equity in communities through increased understanding of the social, political and economic determinants of health such as education, employment, and transportation with the purpose of broadening and strengthening coalition efforts in these areas.

## Goals

To promote health equity in communities through increasing understanding of social, political and economic determinants of health and how to work to attain them through strengthening community organizing opportunities.

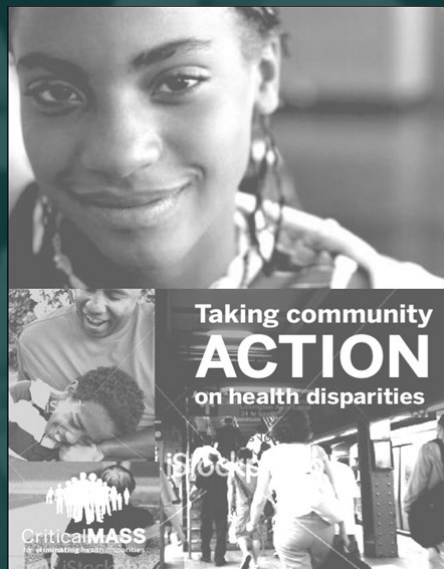


Photo courtesy of CCHERS

## Key Outcomes

Broadened and strengthened knowledge, awareness and action related to social determinants and factors affecting health and health equity.

- 27 youth participated in the training (receiving \$200 stipend)
- 3 Community Development Corporations (CDCs) participated in training. Each CDC sent 5 people: Senior managers, middle managers, and a Board member:
  - ◊ Neustra Comunidad
  - ◊ Madison Park Development Corporation
  - ◊ Urban Edge



***PLACEMAKING,***  
**Neighborhood of**  
**Affordable Housing**



## Program Summary

In partnership with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and other organizations in East Boston, NOAH implemented the Creative Placemaking for Public Health project to engage residents and empower them to drive the process of selecting sites, identifying short-term place interventions, and formulating creative, low-cost methods for implementation. NOAH believes that residents have a critical role to play in helping to find workable solutions for their neighborhoods. This grant allowed them to build their capacity to engage, educate and obtain meaningful input from diverse and non-English speaking, low and moderate income residents, whose voices are often not heard. This resiliency can influence determinants of health, such as access to open space and exposure to traffic injuries.

## Goals

To improve health outcomes by influencing transportation policies and practices, and related public space features by empowering residents and stakeholders to influence the way “places” are identified and improved in their community.



*Photos courtesy of NOAH*

## Key Outcomes

- 16 youth from Eagle Hill participated in the program
- 20 residents from Eagle Hill participated in the program
- 10 residents for whom English is not their first language and who are from Eagle Hill participated in the program
- Surveyed approximately 50 pedestrians in the lower Bennington Street shopping area, which is the location where changes were planned to be tested
- Interviewed and surveyed eight businesses in the lower Bennington Street shopping using picture boards and graphics that depict potential changes to the intersection
- Through PhotoVoice approach, identified five locations where similar testing and temporary place-making could occur
- Contacted the BTD, BPD and elected representatives (City Councilor and State Representative) regarding the process and the changes that we are testing
- 400 residents observed 60 minute demonstration of place-making open space reclamation / traffic calming
- 1,850 residents participated in water access programming
- 400 residents participated in Movie Nights in local neighborhood pocket parks



***TRANSIT EQUITY & HEALTH***  
**Jamaica Plain Tree of Life/  
Arbol de Vida**



## Program Summary

With its partners, the Jamaica Plain Justice and Equity Collaborative, Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE), On The Move Boston, and the Center for Community Health Education Research and Services (CCHERS), JP Tree of Life worked to develop a unified transit justice policy and action agenda to implement with community health centers in Boston. Using a racial justice framework, collaborators documented the relationship between transit justice and increased access to opportunities, housing and preventative healthcare. This initiative also pursued a clear mandate for the City of Boston to develop racially equitable goals in all areas of city governance that would be monitored by a newly created Racial Justice and Equity Commission

*Photos courtesy of JP Tree of Life/Arbol de Vida, taken during a roundtable discussion on transit justice*

## Goals

- Analyze the relationship between racism, public transit and public health
- Influence of bus service on community health center patients
- Impact of transportation on determinants of health
- Create actionable points of entry for community health centers to be involved



## Key Outcomes

- 928 surveys (in English and Spanish + other languages translated by staff) in 11 health centers
- 908 survey results:
- 66.5% of patients rely on the bus or train to get to their appointment
- 28% spend more than 30 minutes getting to the health center
- 49% have missed an appointment in the last year due to issues with transportation
- 13 health center reps were joined by 11 other community leaders at our roundtable discussion on Sept 24, 2015
- All participating health centers signed on to at least 2 and up to 7 action opportunities from a tailored policy action menu
- MassDOT partners have since presented this data in two statewide meetings



**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**  
**YouthHUB**



## Program Summary

In partnership with The Boston Project Ministries, ABCD, Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, BOLD Teens, Codman Square Neighborhood Council, Tech Boston Academy and the Millennium Ten Initiative, YouthHUB developed Youth Cohorts which focused on improving youth employment and health outcomes by building strong interpersonal supports starting in Codman Square, Dorchester and then to be replicated in Mattapan and Roxbury. Participants received education, exposure, practice, and coaching in job-seeking, career planning and overall professionalism in order to improve their employability in reaching career goals. These Youth Cohorts consisted of 8 – 10 youths and 2-3 adult coaches to cultivate peer, adult, and community support for young people, as well as provided support for participation in the "Youth HUB Community."

## Goals

The following are the 12 goals for participants, in order to improve employability :

- Identify 2-3 professions of interest
- Create 2-3 short-term and 1-2 long term goals
- Identify 2-3 people connected to the field of interest
- Talk to someone in the field of interest
- Submit 3 job applications
- Identify 10 job maintenance skills
- Develop Linked In and "professional" online presence
- Demonstrate professionalism
- Create resume
- Create cover letter
- Obtain 1 job interview
- Obtain a summer job



## Key Outcomes

- In the Youth Cohorts Pilot, there were 3 Cohorts (1 pre-employment and 2 during employment) with 23 participants overall and 12 sessions.
- 40% of participants completed all 12 goals
- 100% of participants complete 75% of goals
- 100% of participants obtained a job



*Photos courtesy of YouthHUB, taken during a job fair*

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Community Health

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