

# Boston Alliance *for* Community Health



**Lisa Tran, Healthy Community Champion from Allston/Brighton, speaks to community members about healthy food & beverage options.**

## BACH News Highlights

Summer 2016

*"My hope is that, whether through BACH or any of our passionate neighborhood and citywide partners, more of our members and residents become involved in community efforts to improve the chances of all Bostonians to lead healthy lives." -David Aronstein, BACH Director*

### Resident Engagement News

BACH continues to reach out to Boston residents through our revamped monthly workshop series, **Passport to Public Health**. We've put on 9 workshops this year, including a presentation by Chief Resilience Officer, *Dr. Atyia Martin*, at our "Race, Resilience and Community Violence session," which was met by a record attendance of over 70 people. Overall, there was a notable increase in resident attendance at every workshop! In addition, BACH continues to carry out resident engagement through **BachLEARN**, our bi-weekly listing of local trainings, webinars, reports & conferences that relate to our 5 strategic issues, and through **Learning Community** meetings that relate to each of our strategic issues.



### Community Highlight: Summit on Race & Equity

In June, BACH was able to hold a follow up meeting with those who attended the city's first racial justice conference in May, "**The Summit on Race & Equity: A Call to Government & Community**," held by Boston Alliance for Racial Equity (BARE), in collaboration with Governing for Racial Equity Alliance (GARE), the Office of Mayor Martin J. Walsh & the City of Boston. Participants reported:

- Overall positive feelings about the conference
- It was a good first step to get the City to focus on racial justice issues
- Interest in having a clear follow-up plan on major themes discussed, including creating a system to keep residents included in the process an up-to-date on progress
- A need for Mayor Walsh to be accountable for this commitment by clarifying goals for his office and the City of Boston

BARE leadership is continuing to work with the city to ensure follow through so that all residents have a healthy and equitable life in Boston.

## Let's Get Healthy, Boston! Updates

### I Bike Campaign



Residents from I Bike Boston "Bike to Work Day"

In early June, *Let's Get Healthy, Boston!* announced the official launch of a new campaign to encourage active living and safe transportation. The "I Bike" campaign features Boston residents alongside their bikes and sharing their reasons for biking. The residents featured in the campaign live in Allston/Brighton, Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Mattapan, and Roxbury. Residents are encouraged to share their reasons for biking on social media by tagging @healthyboston @bostonalliance & using the hashtag #IBikeBOS.

### Farm Fresh Boston



Nutrition education table welcomed residents at the Nubia Farm stand for Farm Fresh Boston.

Another objective of the *LGHB!* is to increase the intake of fresh fruits and vegetables to reduce obesity. To help us achieve this objective, we have developed a promotional campaign for Boston's farmers markets that aims to increase awareness of local farmers markets among neighborhood residents and increase usage of Boston Bounty Bucks benefit program among SNAP recipients. Use #farmfreshBOS and #FrescaDeLaFincaBOS & tag @healthyboston and @bostonalliance when posting images of the campaign via social media.

## Community Highlight: Boston Children's Hospital Community Health Initiative

During the summer and fall, **Boston Children's Hospital (BCH)** will be holding a series of community meetings to gather input from residents (particularly parents and youth) about what they see as priority issues related to the health and well-being of children and families in Boston and surrounding communities. Based on this input and other community health assessments, including the MAPP assessment BACH completed in 2014, BCH will make approximately \$53 million available for community health initiatives over a 7-10 year period. There is an Advisory Committee of many stakeholders that is helping BCH staff make sure their process is as inclusive as possible and that the final priorities identified reflect community input. BACH is represented by its Director, *David Aronstein*, on the committee, because an important part of our mission is to influence resource allocations based on data and evidence of effectiveness in order to achieve racial and ethnic health equity.

## Community Highlight: Trauma & Resilience

BACH's **Community Investment Committee** funded \$60K to support community trauma response and resilience building efforts through funding support from Determination of Need Community Health Initiatives of Boston hospitals. Money has been used to support a range of a projects including:

- supporting vigils and funeral services for families of homicide victims
- hiring mothers to become peer advocates, supporting community first responders
- helping youth to attend a summer camping trip with siblings and survivors of gun violence

While BACH understands this isn't a significant sum of money, there is an overwhelming need to fund & support the continuum of care, which includes varying degrees of grassroots efforts, often overlooked. This RFP was designed to help support those aspects of community-based trauma response that arise for faith-based organizations and coalitions.

## Want to get involved?

**Contact:** *Jamiah Tappin, MSW*

Community Organizing & Communications Manager

E: jtappin@hria.org

P: 617.279.2240, x508

[www.BostonAlliance.org](http://www.BostonAlliance.org)

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