



## Boston CHNA-CHIP Collaborative

### **Boston CHNA-CHIP Collaborative to Launch 2019 Community Needs Assessment**

The Boston CHNA-CHIP Collaborative, a new initiative bringing together community organizations, health centers, hospitals and the Boston Public Health Commission, will undertake an inaugural city-wide Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for the City of Boston. This is the first time that Boston's hospitals, community health centers and the City will design and implement a joint assessment. By joining forces, the Collaborative will better leverage their resources and experience leading to better coordination and greater alignment of efforts in addressing the health needs of the residents of Boston.

A CHNA, conducted every three years, is a comprehensive assessment of a community that identifies key health needs and issues through data collection and analysis with input from community members. The needs identified in the CHNA are then prioritized and become the foundation for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

BPHC Executive Director Monica Valdes Lopi stated, "As we continue to build off the lessons learned from previous health assessments, this integrated effort will allow us to look at the broader connections between community health and healthcare. By taking a more collaborative approach, we will be able to develop strategies to improve the overall health for city residents."

"Our hospitals have worked hard to get to this point and are excited to start this important work and growing the Collaborative to include organizations from throughout the City," said John Erwin of the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals, nine of whose member hospitals are participating in the Collaborative.

Over the next several months, the Collaborative will evaluate data that directly measure aspects of health and factors impacting health, including data from state and local public health departments. This evaluation will be followed by a community engagement process that will include community forums, focus groups, surveys and other ways to get resident input on the issues they face and how best to address their needs.

"This is a historic and concerted effort by Boston's healthcare community to maximize and direct city-wide resources and expertise for improving the health and well-being of some of our City's most vulnerable residents," said James W. Hunt, Jr., President and CEO of the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers.

The Collaborative will be launched at a kickoff on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at the Bruce Bolling Building, 2300 Washington Street in Roxbury.

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