

Alliance



Join your local coalition!! Below is a listing of the currently active Alliance groups, their meeting times and locations, and their "link team leaders." Link team leaders assist their respective neighborhood groups with accessing important resources, including health data and mini-grant funding. They also support their groups in the development, implementation, and evaluation of local health initiatives. Link team leaders can be community members and/or representatives from the various organizations that comprise the Alliance (such as the Massachusetts Prevention Center/The Medical Foundation, the Boston Public Health Commission, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health). They meet regularly to address concerns and challenges, provide updates on local initiatives, learn about funding opportunities, and strategize ways to assist local communities in the health planning process.

LTL = Link Team Leader

Allston Brighton Healthy Boston Coalition

Meets 1st Monday of each month
from 5:30-7:30 pm at
St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Seton Auditorium
LTL: Ayubur Rahman
Boston Public Health Commission
Ayubur_rahman@bphc.org
617-534-5966

East Boston Healthy Boston Coalition

Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month
from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 pm at Zumix
LTL: Nick Richardson
Zumix
Nickarabia@yahoo.com
617-568-9777

South End/Lower Roxbury Healthy Boston Coalition

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month
from 5:00-7:00 pm - site rotates
LTL: Cynthia Chase-MacNiel
ccm@thecia.net
(617) 266-3607

Chinatown Healthy Boston Coalition

Call for information
LTL: Margie Henderson
Massachusetts Prevention Center
Mhenderson@tmfnet.org
617-423-4337

Franklin Field/Franklin Hill Healthy Boston Coalition

Meets 2nd Monday of each month
from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Harvard Street
Neighborhood Health Center
LTL: Linda Shepherd
Department of Public Health
Linda.shepherd@state.ma.us
617-541-4076

Healthy Roslindale Coalition

Meets 4th Tuesday of the month on a
quarterly basis from 6:00-8:00 pm at the
Roslindale House
LTL: Laura Melbin
Boston Public Health Commission
Laura_melbin@bphc.org
617-534-2659

Codman Square/Four Corners Alliance

Meets 2nd Monday of each month
from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Massachusetts
Prevention Center
LTL: Margaret Pless Hunter
Boston Public Health Commission
Margaret_plesshunter@bphc.org
617-534-2818

Jamaica Plain Tree of Life

Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month
from 5:30-7:00 pm at the Martha Eliot
Health Center
LTL: Brunilda Torres
Department of Public Health
Brunilda.torres@state.ma.us
617-624-5272

Roxbury Community Alliance for Health

Meets 1st Thursday of each month
from 2:00-3:30 pm at the Whittier Street
Health Center
LTL: Linda Shepherd
Department of Public Health
Linda.shepherd@state.ma.us
617-541-4076

Dorchester Community Services Collaborative

Call for information
LTL: Margie Henderson
Massachusetts Prevention Center
Mhenderson@tmfnet.org
617-423-4337

Mattapan Health Care Revival

Call for information
LTL: Linda Shepherd
Department of Public Health
Linda.shepherd@state.ma.us
617-541-4076

South Boston Collaborative Advisory Network

Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month
from 1:00-2:30 pm at the South Boston
Community Health Center
LTL: Katie Flaherty, South Boston FANS
Kflahety@aol.com
617-268-5950 and
Pat Wright, South Boston Action Center
617-269-5160 x111

Reaching Out to People with Disabilities

The Alliance is committed to the inclusion of all stakeholders and residents who live or work in Boston, including people with disabilities. Promoting this principle, the Alliance invited the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL), which works to raise awareness of accessibility and inclusion issues, to talk with link team leaders about helping their neighborhood groups be more inclusive of persons with disabilities. Holly Vernon, Manager of Information and Referral, and Rob Parks, Youth Skills Specialist, presented recommendations for inclusion at a recent link team leaders' monthly meeting. They explained the importance of outreaching to people with disabilities, noting the wide range of talents that are untapped when people with disabilities are not included. They also discussed reasons people with disabilities are marginalized by society (e.g., fear of unknown, uncertainty or concerns about providing appropriate accommodations, etc.).

Vernon and Parks noted that groups require flexibility and openness for successful inclusion of anyone interested in attending their meetings, activities, or events. They offered the following recommendations:

To increase participation of people with disabilities:

- **Talk with groups from the disability community by either attending their meetings or calling them directly. Inform groups of the work that the Alliance is doing in the neighborhoods, how they can connect with link team leaders, and ways they can get involved;**
- **Send a survey to identified groups to determine who is interested in participating in Alliance meetings and activities. Learn what challenges/obstacles keep them from getting involved and explore ways of dealing with those challenges;**
- **Hold meetings only at accessible sites. Display the access logo on all flyers and brochures;**
- **Indicate a willingness to accommodate other needs such as interpreters and large print materials, and make information accessible before, during, and after the meeting; and**
- **Identify and utilize outreach resources available from different sources including BCIL, the Human Services Yellow Pages, and Bostonresourcenet.org.**

Vernon and Parks also provided the group with resources about their organization, housing issues, and medical concerns of people with disabilities. If you have any questions about BCIL or accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities in general, contact Holly Vernon at 716-338-6665 or TTY617-338-6662. Additional resources can be borrowed from the Massachusetts Prevention Center Resource Library (617-423-4337) including The Medical Foundations' Handbook on Accessibility and Inclusion, which can assist groups in selecting sites, designing programs, and promoting services for persons with disabilities.