

Neighborhood Survey/Needs Assessment Committee Meeting

**Monday March 24, 2008
4-6pm**

**Honan-Allston Library
North Allston, MA**

Attendees:

Monika Bankowski, Mary-Helen Black, Keith Collar, Ellin Flood-Murphy, Michael Hanlon, Linda Kowalcky, Kevin McCluskey, Phyllis Sims, Rita Vaidya, Anand Vaishnav and Brent Whelan.

Agenda

1. Phyllis Sims, Boston Public Health Commission Research Department: Presentation on the Allston/Brighton Neighborhood

Phyllis Sims presented data from the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Data is based on information from the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau and Center for Disease Control (CDC) representative sample data by random digit dialing on landlines and BPHC surveys. Data based on adult population. Phyllis pointed out that there is no decline in the population of Allston/Brighton; second highest population is 18-24 year olds (most likely college students). 95% of people are insured. Allston/Brighton may have highest insurance coverage in all of Boston neighborhoods. For adults obesity is the main public health issue; Allston/Brighton has low infant mortality rate; cancer is leading cause of death among adults. Review of data and discussion.

Concern raised about adequate access to preventative care & screening. Phyllis said that the BPHC has raised the question “was there ever a time that you could not get your healthcare needs addressed?” The response numbers for Allston/Brighton were so low that it clearly was not an issue. Phyllis said that Boston has more health care centers than anywhere else in the country and there is fierce competition among the health care centers. The state no longer requires hospitals to give out patient data; must be a directive at the state level. Doctor’s offices and health care centers are not required either. BPHC has no way to rate the success of each health center. BPHC has emergency room information only what patients were diagnosed with upon discharge/release. Review of BPHC and Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) Programs serving Allston/Brighton. Twelve programs total; two that are at risk of being terminated due to funding. Discussion about access to dental care. Discussion about a possibility of a partnership between the community schools and Harvard Dental School.

2. Review of detailed BPS data

Discussion about BPS data regarding the percentage of Allston/Brighton students in BPS schools. Student assignment process drives the attendance at various schools. Anand will provide data on subsidized lunches in BPS (for schools in Allston/Brighton).

Discussion about presenting this information at the Task Force meeting. SNAC members could determine which information would be the most beneficial to the community and summarize the data. SNAC needs to continue discussion about what data/information has not been presented and what questions should be included in the survey.

3. Upcoming meetings:

4/7: Review Transportation and Public Realm Data and Discussion

Additional meeting dates and topics to be determined