

Community

Quarterly News from the Center for Community
Health Improvement (CCHI)



A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It has been a while since CCHI published its quarterly newsletter, and I am so happy to re-establish this regular communication with you. So much has happened in our world, in our communities, and here at Mass General over the past couple of years that it's difficult to know where to begin.

I've been at CCHI for more than a decade, leading the Center's wide-ranging work with youth and STEM initiatives, and nine months ago assumed the role of Executive Director. First off, I'd like to acknowledge the visionary leadership of both Joan Quinlan, who founded and led the Center for more than a quarter century, and Leslie Aldrich, who previously served in this seat. Under a newly merged structure, CCHI has become part of the MGH Equity & Community Health family, under the direction of [Joseph Betancourt, MD](#), and Leslie has taken on a new role in this more integrated framework. We all serve as the implementation arm for our Mass General Brigham United Against Racism (UAR) and Community Health Strategy.

As we attempt to get back to our pre-pandemic activities, we find ourselves in the midst of even greater challenges for our communities and those we serve—the [overturning of *Roe v. Wade*](#), interrupted learning for many of our students due to pandemic restrictions, a crisis in mental health (particularly for our young people), and an escalation in gun violence not only across our nation but right here in our neighborhoods. Our work is now more urgent than ever as we double down on our commitment to confront these challenges, working alongside our community partners.

In addition to the work of our coalitions in Chelsea, Revere, and Charlestown, we are strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones in Boston—particularly in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan—with support from Cindy Diggs, under the leadership of [Sarah Coughlin](#), Director of Community Partnerships and Engagement. Sarah has now taken on an expanded role with our Boston initiatives, collaborating with community activists and leaders to deepen our engagement and impact in these neighborhoods.

There is much more to report, but we'd like to share just a couple of our most recent highlights. I'd like to encourage your dialogue and feedback and look forward to re-engaging as we move forward in pursuit of our shared goal—the equitable health and well-being of those we serve.

Best,





Community Health Needs Assessment Report 2022



Center for Community Health Improvement

Our 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment is here!

In the fall of 2021, we embarked on a city-wide Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) for Boston and a regional collaborative in North Suffolk—Revere, Chelsea and Winthrop. Learn more about the public health data and what community residents had say about their biggest health challenges.

[Download the report.](#)



Addressing the Youth Mental Health Crisis

Stresses connected to the pandemic—lockdowns and remote learning—along with the psychological distress related to racism have combined to create unprecedented rates of anxiety and depression among our youth.

In the fall of 2018, the [MGH Youth Programs team](#) partnered with [Katia Canenguez, PhD, EdM](#), Pediatric Behavioral Psychologist, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at [Mass General for Children](#), and Jonathan Jenkins, PsyD, Clinical Psychologist, Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Sports Psychiatry, to provide a safe space for our students to talk about mental health issues and effective coping strategies.

In a candid Q&A, Dr. Canenguez discusses her work with our students and her recommendations for concerned parents. [Read more.](#)

[Download mental health resource list.](#)

Helping to Build Healthier Communities - CCHI Charlestown, Revere and Chelsea Coalition Directors go Front & Centered

CCHI has been working to address the social and economic factors that lead to better health - housing, education, employment, food and nutrition, youth development, and more - for more than 25 years.



Click on the arrow (left) to learn more about the frontline work being done in Chelsea, Charlestown, and Revere from our community coalition directors--Sarah Coughlin, Sylvia Chiang and Jennifer Kelly.

Out and About in the Community

It was a full house this past month as *Healthy Chelsea* hosted their first in person coalition meeting since 2019! In addition to great discussion with residents and community partners, Healthy Chelsea staff provided a poster display outlining coalition priorities including: Mental Health, Early Childhood and Youth Substance Use Prevention; Healthy Eating/Active Living/Food Equity; and, Community Connections.



CCHI staff, along with Mass General Brigham, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Kraft Center for Community Health colleagues participated in a host of events throughout the summer bringing health information to Roxbury, Dorchester, and other Boston neighborhoods. Events included Nubian Square's Juneteenth celebration, Black Joy Day, the Mother's March for Peace, and more.

The Charlestown Coalition's youth group, *TURN IT AROUND*, turned 10 this year, and their anniversary celebration was a huge success! The event was attended by friends and supporters of the program, along with many current and past youth members. "TIA-10", a documentary produced by Dante Luna, premiered to a packed house. The film encompasses the past 10 years of TIA and the profound impact it has had on the members and the Charlestown community. Click on the arrow (right) to view.



Dream Big

MGH Youth Scholars

MGH Youth Scholars arrive on campus!

On October 12th, our MGH Youth Scholars--grades 9 through 12-- returned to in-person programming at the hospital for the first time since the pandemic began. In honor of this momentous year, the students have chosen "Dream Big" as its theme.

This past June, 34 graduating high school seniors from Boston, Chelsea, and Revere public schools, along with 16 graduating college seniors came together for the Class of 2022's graduation event. Take a look back at [Celebrating the 2022 MGH Youth Programs Graduates](#), and watch the video [here](#).

99%

MGH Youth Scholars Class of 2022 matriculated to post-secondary education.

22

MGH Youth Scholars are currently or have been employed in full-time positions at MGH or MGB affiliates.



MGH Chelsea Health Justice Team wins LCR's Keeper of the Flame Award

CCHI is the proud recipient of the [Lawyers for Civil Rights' \(LCR\) 2022 Keeper of the Flame Award](#), in honor of our longstanding innovative medical-legal partnership. The Keeper of the Flame award commemorates the legacy of civil rights activist Rosa Parks, recognizing advocacy and accomplishment in pursuit of justice.

Recently expanded beyond the MGH Chelsea HealthCenter, the *Health Justice* program enables our community health workers to connect patients with LCR attorneys for legal assistance related to housing matters, disability benefits, and immigration/naturalization issues.



Massachusetts General Hospital
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham

