

August 9, 2010

Dear Faith-Based Leaders,

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the faith-based public health orientation on July 29, 2010, it was a success! During the meeting attendees were introduced to several programs and services offered by the Boston Public Health Commission. Also, some attendees shared with the group the exciting work their faith-based organizations are doing within their community. Meeting evaluations suggest nearly all attendees found the meeting beneficial and are committed to bringing information back to leaders within their organization, as well as to congregation members. Additionally, attendees agreed that in working together, the Commission and the faith-based community can improve the health of Boston's residents.

As we move ahead, we are continuing to gather ideas for a successful and beneficial partnership. Beginning with the suggestions we have already received, we are starting to develop a faith-based website that will include Public Health Commission program presentations, upcoming events and trainings, fact sheets, and other relevant health information. The website will also feature some of the current work of your places of worship or faith-based organizations.

Moreover, to further facilitate collaboration amongst all organizations, we are looking to designate a space on the website to the stories and experiences from the faith-based community. We hope to highlight the work that different faith-based organizations are doing to address certain health issues within their community. If you would like to contribute an article or announcement, with or without pictures, please contact us. The website will be a work in progress and we look for your suggestions and ideas for successful utilization. Some initial thoughts for web content include tips and tools on how to start a health ministry, how to plan a health fair, and how to plan a flu clinic.

Again, we thank each of for helping us to begin this most exciting and beneficial partnership! We look forward to speaking with you soon. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Triniese Polk
Outreach Director

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